

[Congdon, Ira W.]

IRA CONGDON, ONE OF MIDDLEPORT'S OLDEST AND MOST ESTEEMED CITIZENS

Ira W. Congdon, one of Middleport's oldest and most highly esteemed citizens, died yesterday afternoon at 5 o'clock at his late home on Williams street from pneumonia. He had been confined to the house for many months preceding his death with rheumatism. Mr. Congdon was 81 years old. He was the youngest of the two sons of Ira and Esther Congdon, who came from Vermont in 1818, and settled near the junction of the county line and Ridge roads. A year after Mr. Congdon's birth his father was killed by a limb falling from a tree. The widow and two children then returned to Vermont. Seven years later, in 1827, she returned with her father and the two boys and they settled on a farm two miles west of the village, a portion of which Mr. Congdon owned at the time of his death. In 1850 Mr. Congdon caught the gold fever and went to California via Cape Horn. He returned a little more than a year later and settled on the before mentioned farm, where he lived until a few years ago, retiring at that time and buying the residence on Williams street in Middleport. In 1854, Mr. Congdon was united in marriage to Livonia Smith. One son was born to them, Dr. Charles Congdon of Buffalo, who has risen to prominence in the medical profession.

Mr. Congdon was a life-long attendant at the Universalist church, joined the church in 1854, and was for a long time a trustee of the church and was one of its deacons at the time of his death. He is survived by his widow and son, Dr. Charles Congdon, and two grandchildren. By his friends his loss will be felt almost as keenly as by the immediate relatives. His life was exemplary to all in temperance, frugality and uprightness.

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