

[Crouch, George W.]

GEORGE W. CROUCH, SR.

Death of One of Rochester's Oldest and Most Respected Citizens

Numerous friends and acquaintances of George W. Crouch¹, Sr., will learn with regret of his death which occurred at the family residence, No. 30 Howell street, about 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon. Mr. Crouch had been ill only about a week and although his death was not unexpected, it was rather sudden. The cause of his death was due to a complication of ailments with which he had been afflicted for some time and which were aggravated by advancing age.

George W. Crouch, Sr., was born in 1823 near Utica, N.Y., and when less than 2 years of age came to Rochester with his parents, who settled for the time on Sophia street. A few years later the family moved to the corner of Howell and South streets, and for over fifty years the deceased had been one of the well-known citizens of that neighborhood.

The first business Mr. Crouch was in was teaming for C. J. Hill. He followed that occupation until 1857, when he set up a saw mill and lumber business on the upper bank of the first falls, on the present site of the Gorsline building. In 1861, together with his brother Charles Crouch, who survives him, the deceased purchased that piece of land which has since been known as Crouch's island. The brothers erected a saw mill and dealt in lumber. Later he entered the firm of Craig & Crouch, of which he was the senior member, and he was succeeded in that capacity by Frank P. Crouch, who is still in business at the corner of East Main and North Goodman streets.

Mr. Crouch was connected with several other business enterprises and was very successful in his undertakings. He is one of the oldest Rochesterians who has seen the Flower City grow to its present proportions from the struggling hamlet consisting of a few log cabins. In 1844, the deceased was married to Sarah A. Joy of this city, who died in 1880. In 1883, he re-married to Mary A. Armstrong, who still survives. Besides his wife, the deceased is survived by five children—Sarah L. Crouch, George W. Crouch, Jr., Mrs. S. W. [Celina A.] Hagaman, Frank P. Crouch and Mrs. James L. Bruff, all of this city.

Mr. Crouch was somewhat retiring in disposition, and he was never identified in politics except in 1868 and 1869, when he served as alderman of the old fourth ward. He was president of the Abelard Club of this city, and a prominent member of Monroe Commandery, Hamilton Chapter, and Genesee Falls Lodge, F. & A. M. The preparations for the funeral have not been completed as yet, but it will probably be held on Tuesday afternoon from the family residence on Howell street.

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Transcribed on 23 Mar 2008 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY

¹ He was a member of the First Universalist Society of Rochester.