

[Davis, John]

Death of Hon. John Davis

[Canistota Times]

The death of this prominent citizen of our neighboring town should receive more than a passing notice at our hands, for he was a public spirited man, and intimately identified with the growth and improvement of his village. He was emphatically a leading man, and always alive to the interests of Greenwood.

Mr. Davis was born in Dryden, Tompkins Co., N. Y., in the year 1824, and was consequently 59 years of age only two weeks before he died. When he was five months old his parents removed to Greenwood, in which place he has ever since resided. His father, Levi S. Davis, in company with the late Ira Davenport, erected the first log tavern in this section of the country, in which they did business for a number of years. At the age of 21 years the subject of this notice embarked in the mercantile business, which he followed to the time of this death, on Thursday, October 25th.

He had held every office in the gift of the people of his town except Justice of the Peace. He was their Supervisor for several years, and in 1870 was elected to the Legislature, on the Democratic ticket. He was an ardent Democrat, and always spent liberally of his time and means for the success of that ticket, and for the promotion of the principles of his party. His father was the first Postmaster of the town of Greenwood, and the son held the office for a number of years.

It is mainly through his instrumentality that the public highway between Erastus Carter's and Mrs. Bone Carter's, was laid out in its present shape, thereby avoiding a heavy hill, which was an important saving in the hauling of lumber and freight. The road over the J. D. Moore hill was also changed through his efforts.

He was basely maligned by some on account of his intimate connection with and deep interest in the construction of the Pine Creek railway, but we have always considered that Mr. Davis acted conscientiously in the matter, and had the good of his town at heart.

By close economy and strict attention to the minutest details of his business he had amassed a handsome fortune, an amount probably exceeding \$100,000.

He was a member of the Universalist church of Greenwood, and a man of excellent habits. He was a kind husband and an indulgent father, and his family, composed of a wife [Laura Osburn Davis], two sons and two daughters [Mary, later Mary Webster] and Gertrude], the youngest of which is only 17 years of age, have indeed lost a protector.

John Davis will be sadly missed in Greenwood, and his loss seems indeed irreparable. He was a man of the people, and ever had their interests at

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heart. But without much warning the strong man was laid low. The sudden and startling summons which called him from his earthly labor is a fresh reminder that, in the march of the world, life and death walk hand in hand.

The faithful wife and devoted children who sit at the hearth of mourning to-day may know that their sympathy of the people is with them.

Steuben Advocate, Bath NY, Wed. 7 Nov 1883

Transcribed on 11 Feb 2015 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY