

[Derthick, John]

JOHN DERTHICK

In the death of John Derthick, which occurred at the Derthick Farm last Thursday afternoon, the town of Deerfield loses one of its most respected residents. Mr. Derthick was a gentleman of unusually pleasing personality, a kind neighbor and a man well beloved by all who had the pleasure of his acquaintance. He had been in failing health for the past two or three years and had given up the management of the farm to his youngest son Edwin. He had reached the venerable four score years, the greater part of which had been spent at the Derthick Farm. Mr. Derthick was made a Mason in 1859, and therefore had rounded out half a century as a member of this order, in which he had served as Master of the Lodge six successive terms. He was a valued member of the Board of Education for several years during the early period of the Union school in this village. Mr. Derthick built the hotel now known as the Kendallwood in this village and was proprietor of the same for a short period.

Dr. William T. Bailey's "History of Richfield" relates that "the entire household goods of the family were transported in an ox-cart drawn by a pair of oxen and a single horse. The party arrived in the afternoon and encamped on a slight eminence, the site of the present Derthick Farm. On the following morning it was determined to begin a clearing on this spot and to erect a log house, which was accordingly done, and the family moved in on the fourth day from the time of arrival. An incident showing the great depreciation in value of the Federal paper money of the revolution, some three or four thousand dollars' worth was brought from Connecticut by the family, is that several hundred dollars of it was given for a pair of flat irons."

Mr. Derthick is survived by his wife; by five children, Mrs. Watson Sternberg and Edwin Derthick of this place; John A. Derthick and Mrs. William Dunloy of Brooklyn, and Miss Florence Derthick of New York. He is also survived by a sister, Mrs. Charles Chamberlin.

His funeral was held from his late residence Monday and was largely attended by friends and neighbors. Rev. Frank O. Hokerk [Universalist] officiated and the Masonic burial service was very impressively spoken by Past Master Fred Bronner. The bearers were his sons, John D. and Edwin, his son-in-law William Dunloy, his two nephews, Fred and Charles Chamberlin, and his grandson, Harold Sternberg.

The following appeared in the editorial columns of the Utica Observer Saturday evening: "John Derthick, who died in Richfield Springs, was an old resident of the town, having been born eighty years ago, on the farm where he died, and having always maintained his residence there. Mr. Derthick was a prominent Mason, and as school commissioner of Richfield Springs he had labored much and long to advance the cause of general public education. He built, nearly forty years ago, a hotel which was called the Derthick House but which is now known as The Kendallwood. In his home life Mr. Derthick was an extremely affable and pleasing man. His information concerning all the historic nooks of Otsego county was great, and he had followed James Fenimore Cooper in all his researches, and was perfectly familiar with all the novels of that eminent chronicler of Indian traits and Otsego scenes. Mr. Derthick married Eloise De Groot of New York city, whose father, Captain Albert De Groot, is remembered to this day in the metropolis as a friend of Cornelius Vanderbilt, and as the man who erected the Franklin statue in Printing House Square."

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