

## [Drake, Ovid]

### OTSEGO'S OLDEST RESIDENT HAS PASSED AWAY

In the death of Ovid Drake at his home in Pierstown, Wednesday morning, this county loses one who, it is believed, is the oldest person in its borders. Mr. Drake would have been 99 years old next fall. His life practically spans a century. He was born on October 8, 1805. It was his hope and ambition of late years to reach the century mark.

His health had been failing for several months and the dropsical conditions by which he was affected became more pronounced as the winter drew to a close. He seemed to be no worse on Tuesday afternoon than at any time in the immediate past. He talked cheerfully with his callers but expressed the belief that he would not live to reach the much desired century mark. He became weaker during the night and passed quietly away at 4 o'clock in the morning.

Mr. Drake's mind was remarkably clear for one so advanced in years. He could clearly recall incidents of his early youth and his recollections covered the period of this country's history since the war of 1812, when he was seven years old. He has lived in the lives of all our presidents; he has always recalled with pride that he cast his first ballot for Andrew Jackson, and has always been a Democrat.

Ovid Drake was born in Welcome, in the town of New Lisbon, on October 8, 1805. He was four years old when his father died and soon afterward he went to live with his uncle Chauncey Newell in the town of Otsego. He lived with him until he was 21 years old. He then inherited his uncle's farm. This he occupied for a few years when he sold it and resided in Onondaga for seven years.

He then returned to Otsego county and bought the farm known as "Fairview" situated two miles north of Cooperstown. He was married on January 15, 1829, to Harriet Wheeler, who was born in Hartwick in August, 1810. She died in 1888.

Mr. Drake has been an industrious farmer and has always held the high esteem of his neighbors and all who knew him.

The funeral services will be held at the house in Pierstown this Friday at 2 o'clock and the burial will be made in the Pierstown cemetery. The Rev. E. [Edward] A. Perry [Universalist] of Cooperstown will conduct the services.

Surviving his are five children all residing in this vicinity: H. Clinton, Chauncey M., Francis, Wheeler and Martha.

Mr. Drake is survived by 15 grandchildren and 36 great-grandchildren. In all his large circle of relatives it is a remarkable fact that besides his parents he lost only four of his immediate relatives, namely his wife, Harriet, his grandson Ovid, son of Clinton Darke, and a great-granddaughter Evelyn Wedderspoon. His only brother, Oliver, died at the age of about 84 years in 1902 at Rockford, Ill.

He has a great-grandson by the name of Ovid, the son of Chauncey Drake.

*Otsego Farmer*, Cooperstown NY, Fri. 22 Apr 1904