

[Dunning, Adaline Downs]

Nunda News

DEATH OF AN EARLY PIONEER

Mrs. Adaline Dunning, 90 Years Old, Visited the Famous Mary Jemison

The death of Mrs. Adaline Dunning, one of the oldest residents of this section, occurred on Saturday last at the home of her daughter Mrs. Clarissa Gibbs on the State road in the town of Mt. Morris. She was one of the pioneers of Leicester and Mt. Morris and had lived in the locality where she died since 1825.

She had one brother, the late Martin Downs, who resided near Nunda; also one sister Eliza who married Sidney Ashton, and is now deceased. The late Sophia Chase, wife of Roswell Chase, was her daughter. She leaves one son, Richard W. Dunning, of this village.

Mrs. Dunning was an ardent Universalist and a member of the church of that faith of this village [Nunda]. She was a regular attendant as long as her health would permit and was strong in the faith of the final holiness and happiness of all mankind. She was highly esteemed by all who knew her for her many excellent qualities.

The funeral was held on Tuesday at the home of her daughter Mrs. Gibbs, Rev. O. P. Wilday, her former Brooksgrove pastor, officiating.

The following biographical sketch is from the Mt. Morris correspondent of the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle:

Mrs. Dunning was a daughter of the Green Mountain State, having been born at Shaftsbury, September 6, 1815. With her parents, Eli Downs and Sarah Wheelock, she left Shaftsbury in the spring of 1824, making the trip by canal from Albany to Montezuma, Cayuga county, where the family remained one year. The next year the family journeyed still further into the Western New York wilderness, settling on the town line between Perry and Leicester, three miles west of Moscow on the James Bolton farm.

The Indians then lived on Squawkie Hill and there were a few in the vicinity of Moscow. They would go from house to house to get victuals... Mrs. Dunning said that many a time her kitchen door would open suddenly and when she would turn to discover the reason, she would discover the sphinx-like gaze of a Seneca.

While living in Leicester, in company with her affianced husband, William Dunning, and Mr. and Mrs. Buckhout of Castile, Adaline visited Mary Jemison, the famous "White Woman of the Genesee," at her log cabin at Gardeau.

The family moved to Mt. Morris, Nov. 1, 1832, Mr. Downs buying the farm of William Knight on the State road. The place was surrounded by woods and the farmers in the neighborhood all lived in log houses.

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