

[Emmons, Franklin Leonard]

EMMONS TRAGEDY SHOCK TO MANY

Friends and relatives of Franklin L. Emmons of 208 Wallace st., who was killed by a north bound Club train on the Rome, Watertown & Ogdensburg Railroad, one mile south of Brewerton at 2:15 o'clock yesterday afternoon, were shocked when told of the tragedy. Mr. Emmons, who was 87 years old, was in excellent health for a man of his years and active and useful, and was engaged in cutting hay for market on the farm where he was born and reared at the moment he was killed.

The train passes through a right of way on one of Mr. Emmons' farms and, according to Miss Ethel Miller, who witnessed the accident, the aged man had been mowing with a scythe along the tracks for nearly an hour. It is believed that he stepped upon the tracks just as the train passed through. He was deaf, and not looking up from his work, failed to see or hear the thundering locomotive or its whistle, which was blown as it neared the crossing just south of where the accident occurred.

Mr. Emmons was struck a glancing blow by the cylinder head of the engine, according to those who investigated the accident. The train was brought to an abrupt stop and when the crew reached him the man was dead. The body was taken to the Brewerton station in the baggage car.

Dr. Frank Strong of Brewerton was called and after examining the body, said that death was almost instantaneous. The remains were brought to this city by W. A. Fancher, undertaker, and services will probably be held at the First Universalist Church, of which Mr. Emmons was trustee and oldest member, at 3 o'clock tomorrow afternoon. Burial will be in Oakwood Cemetery.

Mr. Emmons was a familiar figure on the streets of Syracuse. For more than 21 years he was custodian of the old Court House and while there he made hundreds of friends. His early life was spent in Brewerton, on the farm where he was killed, and in 1862 he was appointed deputy sheriff and removed to this city. He was a leader in Republican affairs in Cicero and an important factor in county politics.

Of late years Mr. Emmons had led a retired life, save for working on various farms which he owned in the vicinity of Brewerton. His most active service was with the First Universalist Church, where he was a member of the Board of Trustees from 1871 until his death. He leaves his widow, Mrs. Achsah Emmons, and one daughter, Mrs. George W. [Mary J.] Marvin of Warner. The Emmons family is noted for longevity, the father of Mr. Emmons having died a few years ago at the age of 99 years and 10 months.

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