

[Farmer, Washington]

WASHINGTON FARMER

In the death of Washington Farmer, which occurred at his home in this village last Thursday, there passes away one of the oldest, if not the oldest, resident in the town. Mr. Farmer was born at Herkimer, Herkimer county, December 28th, 1812. He would therefore have been ninety-two years old his next birthday. In the autumn of 1843 he was married to Miss Harriet Harrington, who survives him, and who has the sympathy of many friends. Soon after the marriage he moved to Stockholm, in this county. In 1864 he came to Canton and to the spot where he breathed his last. One son only was born to them, who died at the age of ten, more than forty years ago. Until quite recently Mr. Farmer bore his more than four score years and ten with surprising dignity and grace. He was a strong man in every way. In the days when opportunities for young men were much fewer than now, and wages but a pittance, by working on a farm he laid the foundation for a competency; and he traveled his long life in uprightness and usefulness. Probably no person ever knew Mr. Farmer who did not think most highly of him. He was a gentleman of the old school, dignified in manner always and charmingly courteous in his speech. One could not conceive of him doing or saying what he would have reason to be ashamed of. During all his residence here he had been a loyal member of the Universalist church. He gave largely for the building of the new church, and almost one of his last acts was the heading of a subscription for clearing the church from debt. He continued his regular attendance upon church service until after he was ninety years old. Though lately he has been greatly burdened with years and was glad to depart, we shall miss his dignified and manly figure in the church and on the streets, and shall remember with gratitude his long and useful life.

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Transcribed on 28 Feb 2008 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY