

[Ford, Albigence Waldo]

DEATH OF ALBIGENCE W. FORD

One of the oldest and most respected residents of his town, Albigence Waldo Ford, passed to his reward at his home in Middleville last Wednesday night, in the 92d year of his age. He had been in an almost helpless condition for three years or more, but he had been confined to bed only three days. He was most tenderly cared for by his devoted wife and son through his long illness, and his absent daughters were continually sending or doing something for his comfort and to bring him cheer.

Albigence Waldo Ford was born in Middleville, September 7, 1826, and was one of a family of ten children of Captain David Ford and Abigail Bucklin Ford, the father being a captain in the War of 1812; he died in 1870. The subject of this sketch attended common schools in Middleville and completed his education in Fairfield academy, then a most prosperous institution of high repute. He was born in the old stone house still standing on the edge of Middleville and near his late residence which he erected in 1871 on his large farm of over 300 acres. He engaged extensively in agriculture and erected a cheese factory, the product from which had a high reputation on the Little Falls cheese market. He also had one of the largest and finest apiaries in this section of the state, keeping about 300 swarms of bees, from which he realized a handsome yearly profit. He was an expert apiarist; on account of poor health he discontinued this business about 1903.

In politics Mr. Ford was a Whig until 1856 and then joined the [newly created] Republican party, with which he has since been identified. Some years ago he served several years as assessor of the town of Fairfield and also two terms as supervisor, in the years 1871 and 1872. Years ago he took an active interest in the Herkimer County Agricultural Society and later he was a member of the Grange. He has long been a member of the Universalist church of Middleville and was devoted to its interests. Mr. Ford was quiet and unassuming, but one who would impress anyone as a man of candor and at once inspire confidence in him as a man of honor and integrity. He was devoted to his family and his home which was ever attractive and hospitable to every guest. No citizen of his town was held in greater respect and regard and all could but admire him for his high standard of honor and principle.

Mr. Ford married Miss Irene Isham of Salisbury, January 1, 1863. She survives with four children: Mrs. Addie Atwood of Canton, Mrs. Mary Wilkins of Minneapolis, Minn., David E. Ford of Middleville, and Mrs. Irene Gillette of Minneapolis, Minn. He also leaves one sister, Mrs. Mary Broughton of Syracuse.

[Ford, Albigen Wald]

The funeral was held Friday evening at 8 o'clock from the home and was private. Rev. Mr. [Frank] Hokerk, pastor of the Universalist church of Middleville officiated, assisted by Rev. John Murray Atwood, D.D., son-in-law of deceased and dean of St. Lawrence University. The body was taken to the undertaking rooms of W. E. Autenrith and on Saturday afternoon taken by him to Waterville, N.Y. for cremation, burial of the ashes to be made in the family plot of the Middleville cemetery.

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