

[Goff, Orpheus Brooks]

ORPHEUS GOFF, LAST OF LOCAL CIVIL WAR VETERANS IS DEAD

Canisteo's sole survivor of the Civil War, Orpheus Brooks Goff, died Sunday morning at 10 a.m. at his home, 37 West Main street. Despite his advanced age, 91 years, Mr. Goff was very active and a familiar figure on Canisteo's streets.

The final member of the Grand Army of the Republic here, in the last few years Mr. Goff was the sole marcher in Memorial day parades as a representative of those who fought in the Civil War from here.

A stomach ailment that increased in severity within the past two months is attributed as a direct cause of his death. He was born in Howard Nov. 20, 1845, the son of Warren W. and Lucina Pixley Goff.

Mr. Goff was one of the most colorful warriors in Steuben county that came out of the civil conflict. He was only 16 years old when he enlisted at Bath and was assigned to the 161st infantry which was then being organized in Elmira.

During the Civil War he saw action in the Red River expedition under General Banks. His company was commended highly for its valor by Brigadier General W. H. Emory. Mr. Goff also participated in campaign and final capture of Mobile. He fought in 16 engagements and was never wounded or taken ill. He served three years.

He was a member of the Universalist church.

Surviving are two sisters, Mrs. Sarah Smith, Hornell, and Mrs. Helen Davis, Pasadena, Calif., and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services with military honors conducted by Canisteo American Legion were held at 2:30 p.m. Tuesday from Scranton's Funeral home, Greenwood street. Rev. Paul V. Arow, pastor of the First Baptist church officiated, with burial in Hillside cemetery.

Over 200 attended the Tuesday afternoon funeral services, one of the largest assemblages seen here at such a function in some time. The military services in charge of the Canisteo post, American Legion were most impressive, with 31 Legionnaires present.

The pall bearers were: Dr. J. L. Crossman, Howard Garman, Dr. K. E. Comfort, Chris Zeltwanger, Fred D. Crane, [and] D. M. Gardner, members of the local post. Alvah A. Strong, commander was in charge of the service.

In addition, 30 Erie [Railroad, where he was employed for 40 years] r. r. men together with members of the relief corps of the Erie were present from Hornell. Rev. J. Gordon McKenzie assisted Rev. Paul V. Arow with the burial service. The color guard consisted of Sgts. Burnett and A. L. Rich of the state police, and village policeman Harold Stephens.

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