

[Harris, Caleb]

South Part of the County

Mr. Caleb Harris, the oldest person and the oldest inhabitant of Henderson, died of paralysis on Monday the 27th ult., at the residence of his son-in-law, Fales Johnson, Esq. Mr. Harris was born in Richmond, New Hampshire July 19, 1777. In the year 1800 he emigrated to Upper Canada and settled somewhere on the Bay of Quintz, but being dissatisfied with the country, in the winter of 1805 and 1806 he crossed over to Henderson, bringing his effects on a sleigh drawn by a yoke of oxen. Soon after settling in the town he was appointed a justice of the Peace but declined to serve. Afterwards he was appointed town clerk, which office he held, by election or appointment, for nine years. His family say that he held the office of Supervisor for nine consecutive years and for thirteen years in all, but Hough, in his History of Jefferson County, says he held the office in the years 1825-6, 1828-31, 1833, eight years in all. When the [Revolutionary] war broke out he was an orderly sergeant in Capt. W. Clark's company, which position he held at the battle of Sacket's Harbor, but was afterwards elected ensign, then 1st Lieut., which he held at the close of the war. He was first cousin to the celebrated clergyman, Rev. Hosea Ballou, and like his relative, was a firm, consistent and uncompromising believer in the doctrine of Universal Salvation. He was one of the founders of the Universalist society in Henderson and was for many years one of the deacons. He was a man of strong intellect, great executive ability, of unblemished moral character, and exemplary life.

Rev. L. [Luther] Rice of Fulton preached his funeral sermon from a text selected by the deceased six years before. He lived and died on the same farm he purchased and cleared when he first came into the town, sixty-five years before.

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