

[Hellems, Isaac]

DEATH OF ISAAC HELLEMS

Isaac Hellems, who lived to the good old age of seventy-four years, died Friday morning at his residence, 12 Oak street—in the house built by his own hands thirty-two years ago, and occupied by him ever since as his place of residence. He was a good old man, known and respected by scores of people in Rochester and vicinity. Every one of those who ever knew him will sincerely regret to learn that he is gone. Mr. Hellems was the son of a native of Pennsylvania, and was born in Canada, near St. Catherines. He came to Rochester in the year 1827, and for many years plied his trade as a successful carpenter and builder. He was identified with many memorable events and incidents in the early history of the city. He took an active part in advocating and working for the establishment of the ten-hour system for working people, and was one of those who actually hired and paid a man for ringing the court house bell at 7 o'clock every morning and at 6 o'clock every evening—thus impressing his point more forcibly on the minds of the people. He was one of the early assessors of the city, was a school trustee of old number 5 district, was a very active pioneer fireman and one of the first members of fire company number 3. He was also a respected member of the Universalist church. From many of the walks of life wherein he was formerly very active he has been missed for several years, and now a few of his old associates who survive him will sincerely lament that he is no more. Some time ago Mr. Hellems was stricken down with malarial fever, of which he suffered a long siege. This disease was followed by rheumatism, and gradually pain made its deep mark upon the old gentleman's vitality, finally effacing it altogether. He leaves a son and a daughter—Charles Hellems and Mrs. Caroline Way—both of this city. Brothers and sisters residing near St. Catherines, Ont., survive him. The funeral will take place this afternoon at 3 o'clock, at the house, 12 Oak street.

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Transcribed on 23 Jun 2008 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY