

[Hitchcock, Solomon]

—In the death and burial of Solomon Hitchcock, the town of Conesus has lost one of its oldest, ablest, and most respectable citizens. He died last Sunday morning after a long period of gradual decline, from Bright's disease of the kidneys, nearly 77 years old, [unreadable] preaching a most fitting sermon. The deceased had been a life long Universalist, and had borne a character of unusual probity and worth. The death of his wife, about a year ago, a woman of rare excellence, added greatly to his burden of disease. To her efforts and gifts the society were mainly indebted for the new Universalist church. Mr. Hitchcock had a sunny nature, uniform brightness of countenance and cheerful presence, combined with firm will, prompt action and untiring perseverance. He was born in Dutchess county and came to Conesus in 1831, engaging at once in partnership with his brother Hector in the then-new enterprise of raising flue wool sheep. In fact, Hector Hitchcock brought, around 1828, the first flock of merino sheep ever seen in the towns of Conesus or Livonia. The venture proved successful and paid its pioneers handsome incomes. Andrew and Gardner Arnold and William Perrin soon followed suit, and Conesus became known for fine wool sheep, the breeding of which in late years has made parts of Livingston and Ontario counties so famous. In 1841 Mr. Hitchcock married Laura, daughter of John C. Coe, of Livonia. One son, Edward S., is the only child, inheriting a due estate and an honored name. The deceased was buried in the new [Arnold] cemetery. The bearers were Ezra W. Clark, Timothy Degraw, Patrick McNinch, B. F. McMillan, Jacob Albertson and Washington Durkee.

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