

[Hosmer, John Gamage]

WAS WIDELY KNOWN

Countless Friends Mourn the Death of John G. Hosmer

HIS HAD BEEN AN ACTIVE LIFE

And He Had Larger Personal Acquaintance Than any Other Cayuga County Man

John G. Hosmer, whose death was chronicled Saturday, was probably more widely known throughout Cayuga county—had a larger personal acquaintance—than any other resident of the county and his death will be widely deplored. For half a century he had been active in Republican politics and had held many places of trust and responsibility. His was a genial nature and he had a reputation for fairness to political opponents and lasting friendship for political friends. His personal popularity was founded on those characteristics and his death brings sorrow to all who knew him.

Mr. Hosmer's activity in politics covered a period when Auburn and Auburnians were very prominent in the Republican organization of the State and he was a recognized force. An aggressive and resourceful politician, his was a kindly nature and he had a faculty for doing his utmost in a cause without making enemies. Loyalty was one of his characteristics and during the years that the late General John N. Knapp was chairman of the Republican State Executive Committee, Mr. Hosmer was his confidential clerk at headquarters during every campaign.

John G. Hosmer was born in Steuben county this State in a little place which was called Cobtown and later Cameltown, June 12, 1835. He was the eldest son of the Rev. William Hosmer, who was a very prominent Methodist clergyman in the middle of the last century. The father held pastorates at Bath, Corning, [and] Waterloo in this State and Covington, Pa., prior to locating in Auburn in 1848, when he came here under appointment from the general conference of the Methodist church as editor of the Northern Christian Advocate. John G. Hosmer, then a boy of 13, came here with the family. Mr. Hosmer, a strong, vigorous boy, drove overland with his sister, through the wild country West and South. As a boy or man he knew not what fear was and he never shirked a responsibility.

The education he had received prior to coming to Auburn was supplemented by a course in the old Auburn academy and later he took a course in Lima seminary, which at that time was a famous educational institute of the Methodist church. He then entered Genesee college, which was the foundation of Syracuse university[,] and quit college to accept the position of local editor on the Auburn Daily American under the late William J. Moses and for years was associated with Mr. Moses, whose warm personal friend he was up to the time of Mr. Moses's death. He also read law for a year here.

Mr. Hosmer naturally took to politics and when the Republican party was formed [from the Whig party in 1854] he became active in its organization. This activity did not cease after his retirement from the newspaper work to engage in farming in Aurelius[,] and he was chosen coroner of the county in the days when it was not considered that such an officer must be a physician. He also served several terms as

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clerk of the Board of Supervisors, prior to 1871 when he was elected sheriff of the county. After his term as sheriff was over he for years held clerkships in the Senate and Assembly at Albany and so expert in clerical work was he that he was made engrossing clerk of the Senate. During practically all of this time he also served as clerk of the Board of Supervisors and his knowledge of that work had made him practically indispensable and a great aid to all presiding officers.

When the late Sheriff Ryder went into office he appointed Mr. Hosmer undersheriff and he has [had] served continuously under Sheriffs Wood, Colton and Fordyce.

Mr. Hosmer was the second in a family of six to die, he being survived by one brother, Col. William M. Hosmer of this city, and three sisters: Mrs. B. I. Ives of this city, Mrs. William Wright of North Adams, Mich., [and] Mrs. Edward Brooks of Charlevoix, Mich.

He is also survived by his [second] wife [Mary Ferris Hosmer], one daughter, Miss Jane F. Hosmer, a teacher in the New York city schools, and six sons, Robert W. and Charles F. Hosmer of Detroit, Mich.; Fred M., F. Howard and James J. Hosmer of this city, and Wilson G. Hosmer of Watertown.

The funeral will be held tomorrow from the family home. No. 5 Perrine street, at 2 p.m. Burial will be made in Fort Hill.

*Auburn Weekly Bulletin*, Auburn NY, Tue. 6 Feb 1906

Funeral of John Hosmer

The funeral of the late John G. Hosmer will be held at the family home No. 5 Perrine street Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock. Rev. A. [Arnold] S. Yantis of the First Universalist church will officiate and the interment will be in Fort Hill cemetery.

*Auburn Semi-Weekly Journal*, Auburn NY, Tue. 6 Feb 1906

Transcribed on 10 May 2018 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY