

## [Hosmer, Merrill]

### MERRILL HOSMER

The death of Merrill Hosmer, a life long resident of this village, occurred at his home on Bay St, Friday afternoon, July 23, after an illness of several weeks.

Mr. Hosmer was born in Potsdam September 16, 1841, son of Mr. and Mrs. John S. Hosmer who came from Vermont when this country was newly settled. His father started a boot and shoe business on the site now occupied by Whitney & Sackett. After attending St. Lawrence Academy, he was for a short time a partner in a grocery and feed store on Main street with the late H. K. Baldwin. After this he entered into the shoe business with his father and after the latter's death, continued the business.

In 1863 Mr. Hosmer enlisted in the Navy and served on the frigates "Susquehanna" and "Mount Vernon." He was in a number of engagements prominent among which was the battle of Fort Fisher. Mr. Hosmer's term of enlistment was for one year.

He returned to Potsdam and soon after engaged in the business of buying butter and produce and in this line he continued for over thirty-five years, for thirty two of which he had an office on the site of the store now occupied by C. E. Haywood. For twelve years he operated a large farm near Potsdam moving back here in 1892 to the residence which he was occupying at the time of his death.

Mr. Hosmer was an ardent and steadfast Republican, for fifteen years a County Committeeman and his word had great weight in the councils of the party. He served as postmaster of Potsdam for several years and was an admirable man for the office. Big of heart, honest and generous, yet he was strong enough not to be over-influenced by sentiment.

He was appointed Postmaster in the Potsdam office in 1897 and held the office eight years during which time it increased greatly in the volume of business done.

Mr. Hosmer was always ready to assist a man in trouble and to give encouragement and many a young man can date his success in life to the aid or assistance of Mr. Hosmer at a critical time. He probably had as large a circle of friends and admirers as any man in the village.

He was a faithful member and ardent supporter of the Universalist Church, for years its treasurer. He was also an honored and influential member of Marsh Post, G. A. R.

Mr. Hosmer married in this village October 7, 1867, Axie B. Sayles, a daughter of J Nicholas Sayles of this place. Four children were born to them, two of whom are living, John and Sumner, both of this place. Mr. Hosmer is also survived by his wife and two sisters, Mrs. Susan Hackett and Mrs. Rose Forbes.

Funeral services were held at the house Monday afternoon, Rev D. L. Fisher officiating. The large number present, all being unable to get into the house, attested the respect in which he was held. The Marsh Post, G. A. R. attended in a body and interment was in Bayside cemetery.

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