

[Houghton, William B.]

Death of William B. Houghton

DIED—In Little Falls, September 18, 1884, William B. Houghton, aged 76 years.

Our community is again called to mourn the death of one of our oldest and most respected citizens. After a comparatively short illness of about three weeks, William B. Houghton went to his long rest last Thursday morning. Kindred and friends who loved him dearly had given him most constant attention and the tenderest care, to mitigate the effects of the wasting disease, and to comfort and cheer, so far as possible, his last days upon earth. He died upon his 76th birthday.

Mr. Houghton was one of our most staunch and reliable citizens. The best interests of our village, where nearly his whole life has been passed, have ever secured his hearty encouragement and support. His life was one of indomitable industry, of most persistent activity in business, which continued even down to the days of his last illness. Kind-hearted, warm and cordial in his relations with his employe[e]s, public spirited in all worthy enterprises, honest everywhere and at all times, genial in his manners and generous in his impulses, Mr. Houghton had secured such a place in his family, in his circle of friends, in the community, as no one now can fill—a place filled with the honors and the pleasures which are ever the crown and glory of a long and noble life. His death takes from us one more of the patriarchs whose examples of industry, enterprise, uprightness, are well worth the imitation of the generation which is so largely indebted to them.

William B. Houghton was born in the town of Fairfield, September 18, 1808. His early years were passed at home upon his father's farm. When a young man he taught school at different places, and he will be remembered by quite a number of old residents throughout the county as a teacher of singing schools in Fairfield, Salisbury and other places. He left home at about the age of twenty-five and was employed in Rochester for about one year. Returning home he soon afterwards married Miss Ruth Ann Knight of Newport. Two or three years later he bought a farm at Paines Hollow where he lived two years and then accepted a position as overseer of men employed in the enlargement of the canal. During this time he lived near Herkimer.

In 1843 he came to Little Falls and bought a half interest of Wm. Ingham in the business of grinding plaster, the mill being where the hammer factory is now located. Mr. Houghton soon bought the remaining interest of the business, and not long afterwards, in company with Messrs. T. & H. M. Burch, purchased the mill property of A. G. Harris, where the present

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business of W. B. Houghton & Son is now carried on. The plaster business was there continued and also that of a planing mill.

In 1854 the deceased bought out the interest of his partners, and two years later his son, Mr. B. K. Houghton, was admitted as a partner, and the firm was thereafter known as Wm. B. Houghton & Son, the present title, except that for about four years from 1864 to 1868 Guilford N. Houghton was interested in the business and the firm was W. B. Houghton & Co.

Upon the incorporation of the Universalist society of Little Falls in 1851¹, Mr. Houghton was elected one of the trustees and has held this position ever since. He has been trustee of the village and held different town offices. His former wife died in 1856 and in 1868, he married Mrs. Sarah [Ford] Keith of Middleville, who survives him. He also leaves a sister, Mrs. Morgan E. Case of Fairfield, a brother, Mr. Volney A. Houghton, of Cardiff, Onondaga county, who is now 79 years of age, and a son, Mr. Byron K. Houghton, of this village.

The funeral was very largely attended at his late residence on Sunday afternoon, Rev. Mr. [George W.] Powell, of Herkimer, officiating.

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¹ As the First Universalist Society of Rockton, Herkimer Co., N.Y.