

[Hoysradt, Jacob Warren]

DEATH OF GENERAL HOYSRADT

THE CLOSE OF A BUSY AND SUCCESSFUL LIFE SADDENS THE WHOLE COMMUNITY.

He Was a Representative Citizen and Was Universally Respected by all Classes—

A Sketch of His Life—The House of Refuge for Women Adopts a Tribute to His Memory—

Gov. Hill Sends Regrets to the Afflicted Family.

The community was shocked on Saturday by the sudden death of GEN. JACOB W. HOYSRADT, one of the most prominent, respected and useful of our citizens.

The condition of his health had been a source of anxiety to his friends for the last several months, but encouraging reports concerning him had served to lull the sense of danger which they felt at the outset, and his early return to his accustomed duties was confidently expected by many upon whom the news of his decease will fall as a sudden blow. The loss of one so widely known deserves more than a passing comment. There was no more distinguished personality than his in our county. His life was passed within its borders, and his energies throughout an extended and unusually successful business career were devoted to the development of its moral and material interests. He lived for almost three score years and ten, and in that long life, by reason of tireless industry and close and conscientious attention to the details of every duty which came to his hand to do, he had accumulated a store of experience and developed a ripened judgment which made him useful to his fellow men, and which will be sorely missed by the many who sought his counsel day by day.

In every community is found some man whose sagacity, integrity, ability and kindness of heart make him by common consent a leader, counsellor and guide in its public affairs, and a trusted friend and advisor in the private concerns of its individual members. Such for many years has been the well defined and recognized position of Gen. Hoysradt in the city of Hudson. His public life was known to all men; his high conception of official duty was a matter of common knowledge. But the countless deeds of quiet charity and helpfulness which he did from year to year, the many words of encouragement and advice which he gave to those upon whom the burdens of life pressed heavily and whose ways seemed dark and unpromising, were known only to those who sought his counsel and were never turned away empty-handed. He lived in Hudson for more than the full limit of a generation of human life, and from the outset of his residence here to its end, he was a man of mark. He always felt a deep interest in municipal affairs, and never refused to accept his full share of their burdens.

General Hoysradt was born in the town of Ancram, in this county, on March 8th, 1824. A portion of his early life was spent as a clerk in a general country store at Valatie, and also as a clerk in the city of Albany. In the spring of 1845 he commenced operations in the employ of Mr. C. C. Alger, in the manufacture of pig iron at Berkshire, Mass., in which capacity he remained about five years. The Hudson Iron Company, being formed in 1849 he came in the spring of 1850 with Mr. Alger in this city and was associated with the latter in the management of the Iron Works until 1864—a period of fourteen years of active experience, requiring talents and business qualifications of a high order. Upon the retirement of Mr. Alger, in 1864, Mr. Hoysradt was, by unanimous consent of the directors and stockholders, chosen general manager of the company, and filled the position so efficiently and satisfactorily that, in 1868, he was elected President of the Hudson Iron Company, which responsible position, together with the general supervision and direction of the business, he continued to hold to the time of his death.

For many years he held the office of President of the Farmers National Bank of Hudson, a position indicative of the confidence reposed in his financial ability by the directors of that institution. From 1869 to 1878, he was President of the Columbia Agricultural and Horticultural Association. He was for a long time one of the Trustees of the Hudson City Savings Institution,

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and for many years connected with the Hudson Gas Company. Hardly a business enterprise of prominence and stability has been set on foot in this city since his residence here with which he has not been identified in some capacity, and he has been the recipient of many private trusts of great extent and importance. In short there was no other citizen in whom so many of the financial and business interests of the city centered and had their focus as in him.

His political career was equally distinguished and active. In 1857 and 1858 he held the office of Alderman. In the fall of 1858, he was elected Mayor of the city of Hudson and served during the years 1859 and 1860. He was re-elected to the same office in 1866, completing another term of two years. For eight years—from 1869 to 1877—he was Postmaster of this city and resigned at the expiration of that time. In 1868 he was a delegate to the Republican National Convention at Cincinnati in 1876; and in the famous convention of 1880, at Chicago, he held a place upon the New York delegation as alternate for Gov. Cornell, who was not present and through all its stormy scenes he was one of the 306 supporters of the candidacy of Gen. Grant at the side of Roscoe Conklin, and afterward held one of the memorial medals presented to the members of that devoted organization. For many years he was Chairman of the Republican County Committee of Columbia county, giving much time and attention to the local interests of the party of which he was always a consistent member. In 1878 he was elected to the Assembly from the old Southern Assembly District of the county by a majority of about 1,200, and with the Hon. Perkins F. Cady as his colleague from the Northern District, and the Hon. Stephen H. Wendover as Senator, sat in the 102d session of the Legislature of New York, which then met for the first time in the new Capitol. He served with distinction on the Committee of Ways and Means, of which Mr. Sloan, of Oswego, was chairman, and on that of Banks, of which Mr. Sawyer, of Tioga, was chairman. In 1880 he was appointed by Gov. Cornell upon the latter's staff, as Paymaster General, with the rank of Brigadier General, and held that office during the Governor's term. His labors in that position were unusually onerous from the fact that during his incumbency the State Camp of Instruction was established, and he was charged with the payment of the regiments first assigned to duty at that point. The disbursement of large sums of money was thus made necessary, and his business experience and capacity proved of great service to the State. In 1885 he was elected to the State Senate, and was a prominent member of that body through his two years of service. He held a place upon the Railroad Committee, and with Senators Low, Walker, Knapp, Pierce and Reilly as his colleagues, conducted the investigation of the affairs of the Broadway Surface Railroad Company, which led to the subsequent indictment and trial of many of the persons charged with corrupt interest in that scheme. He also served upon the Finance Committee, and acquired a wide and accurate knowledge of the needs and workings of the various institutions of the State.

When the House of Refuge for Women was located in Hudson, largely through his efforts, he was appointed one of the Board of Managers of the institution, and by them was afterwards chosen their President, which position he held at his death. He was not wholly absorbed in business and politics. While the varied interests and duties which have been alluded to occupied his chief attention, he had also a taste for general literature and art, and enjoyed with a keen zest the amenities of social and domestic life. He was for several years before his death a member of the Union League Club, of the Business Men's Republican Club and of the Holland Society of the City of New York.

[lines missing] Caroline, daughter of the late Charles [and Caroline Hammond] McArthur of this city, who with five children [Major Albert Hoysradt, Mrs. Stanton Gleason, Miss Jessie Hoysradt, Mrs. Clark G. Rossman and Warren J. Hoysradt], survives him. During the pastorate of the Rev. A. G. Rogers, Mr. Hoysradt became a member of the Universalist church, and at the time of his death was a Deacon, Trustee and President of the parish. He was always a

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generous contributor to the various enterprises of the church, a sound counsellor upon questions of church polity, and a liberal donor to all public and private charities. Thus ends the record of a busy and honored life.

The ceaseless labor which the accomplishing of so much involved was no greater than the purity and sincerity of motive which prompted and permeated his efforts. He possessed in full measure the qualities that make up and distinguish the natural gentleman. In manner he was dignified and self-possessed, respectful of the rights of others and his own.

He was strong and ardent in his friendships, and his confidence and esteem when once he bestowed upon an associate were never withdrawn, except upon what seemed to him to be convincing proof.

His private life was pure and irreproachable. His social duties were scrupulously observed. Without ostentation he upheld the interests and institutions of Christianity and social order. His political convictions were sincere—the result of just reasoning from the premises which his sense of public right led him to select, and they were adhered to with tenacity, but without offence to those who differed from him. The example of his life to young and old is one which leads to rectitude of thought and deed. In the autumn of that life, as of the year, the end has come to him in peace. In the sacred precincts of his quiet home, surrounded by those whom he tenderly loved and cherished, and who in turn were devoted to him, he passed from the cares and labors of earth to the rewards which await the good.

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ACTION OF THE UNIVERSALIST CHURCH.

After the morning service at the Universalist church Sunday a meeting was held over which Hon. Harper W. Rogers presided and at which Mr. Charles C. Terry offered the following resolution which was adopted by a unanimous vote:

Resolved, That the pastor of this church and parish, V. [Vincent] E. Tomlinson, and the clerk, Mr. Richard Macy, be appointed a committee to present an appreciation of the services rendered to the Universalist church of Hudson, by our late brother, Jacob W. Hoysradt, and our deep sorrow for his death, and sympathy for the bereaved family.

In compliance with this resolution the pastor and clerk prepared the following testimonial:

In the loving Providence of God, our brother Jacob W. Hoysradt, having been called from his earthly to his heavenly home, we, the officers and members of the First Universalist church of Hudson, would spread upon our records this testimonial to his worth.

For many years our departed brother filled a large place in our midst, winning the esteem of all by the characteristic fidelity with which he discharged the duties entrusted to him. As deacon of the church, as president and trustee of the parish he ever manifested a love for the upbuilding of Christ's Kingdom in the world, and now that he has left us, we realize how great is our loss. We mourn his departure, but are thankful for the services which he so freely rendered, and rejoice in the thought that "he rests from his labors and his works do follow him." To our bereaved sister and her family we extend our warmest sympathy and love, and pray that the All-Wise Father may comfort them in this, their hour of trouble.

Columbia Republican, Hudson NY, Thu. 20 Nov 1890

[excerpts]

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LAST SCENE OF ALL Closing Tributes of Respect to the Late JACOB W. HOYSRADT— Services at the Funeral—The Floral Contributions— Eloquent Eulogy by Rev. A. G. Rogers, of Salem, Mass.

Yesterday, in the beautiful stillness of a glorious autumnal afternoon, was laid at rest our beloved townsman, General Jacob W. Hoysradt. Seldom has such a funeral been seen in our city, and not for many years past have such an enormous number of people gathered, to pay tribute to a deceased citizen, as was witnessed yesterday afternoon at the fine old residence of our departed friend. The morning trains brought many distinguished men from abroad to this city, while hundreds of others came from all over the county to pay their respects to the memory of the dead. For nearly an hour before the time, crowds of people thronged to the spacious house, and when the services finally began, the dwelling was packed to its doors. The casket which was of red cedar covered with black broadcloth, supported by pedestals, stood in the front parlor, the head resting immediately under the mantel. At the head of the coffin, and leaning upon the mantle, stood a beautiful large square floral piece, bearing the inscription, in purple immortelles, "Friend". At the left of the casket rested a mammoth column, composed almost entirely of roses, which was the gift of the officers of the House of Refuge for Women of this city, of which the deceased was the president. Several other large floral offerings were seen in different parts of the room. The funeral ceremonies were opened at half past two o'clock by a prayer, offered by the Rev. Dr. Tomlinson, pastor of the Universalist church of this city, of which the deceased was a member. After the prayer Dr. Tomlinson read several passages of scripture, when a quartette, consisting of Messrs. Moore and Aitkin, and Mrs. Hydorn and Miss Dora Waide, rendered the beautiful hymn "One Sweetly Solemn Thought," in a very impressive manner. At the conclusion of the hymn, the Rev. A.G. Rogers, formerly of this city, delivered an eloquent eulogy upon the dead.

SYNOPSIS OF THE EULOGY

To the friends who sat there, and with whom he had been formerly acquainted, Mr. Rogers felt sure, would understand what he meant, when he said he would rather be among the mourners at that time expressing his friendship and love for the departed friend. Very imperfectly could he speak, because of the deep feelings in his heart. For ten years he had been privileged to call this honored man his friend. During all this time nothing had occurred to mar the friendship. Not even a ripple in it had taken place. It was a warm and loyal friendship. If his dear friend could speak and give him suggestions, he would say, be very modest to all you say about me. Give to these, my friends, the consolations of the gospel of peace. Today, carrying out imperfectly what he believed would be the thought of his departed friend, he would draw their attention to spiritual consolations. We may comfort ourselves by many blessed thoughts of the future and immortal life. Jesus Christ speaks to these beloved mourners to-day as he did to his disciples eighteen hundred years ago. "Because I live, you shall live also." Death really means life. It means the emancipation of the soul; it means release from care. Jesus Christ died, and his death brought life to his disciples. Our beloved friend lives more truly than anyone here. Here, we are struggling along, day by day. The true life begins, when the goodbyes are said upon the earth. I continually ask my friends not to speak of "death," but to say "life." He who is gone, most truly lives. Life is a burden. I am no pessimist; but life is a burden. I love to think that when the spirit of our dear friend left the body, the Great Father gave him a new body. Our friend is the gainer to-day. He is a rich man to-day. The love of God came to him.

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Jacob Hoysradt has gained this life. He has gained a higher life. Think of him, a spirit ransomed and blessed. It would not be just, modest as our friend was, not to speak of him to-day. The life of Jacob Hoysradt is a lesson to everyone. I am glad, as a minister, to have known one in public life who was pure and stainless. Spotless in his political life he was a faithful son of the Republic. In the depth of this man's heart was a great love of principles which would give success to anyone. God be thanked for the life of such a man. In his business career his life preaches a striking sermon to every young man. He was a self-made man, and he was what he was, by reason of those principles of commercial integrity which give success. When I was in this city I was struck by the great trust which people had in him, and how man wanted to make him executor. Those confidences and trusts preach a far more effective sermon of the business worth and integrity of Jacob Hoysradt than I could.

HIS RELIGIOUS LIFE

I remember last Sunday night I gathered together the young people of my church and spoke to them of my friend. That notwithstanding he was overwhelmed with his business interests, he was always loyal to his church. You have come to recognize the worth of a Christian gentleman. I think more of a man who lives his Christianity.

HIS HOME LIFE

His home life was so beautiful. How lovingly he watched the progress of this house. How true he was in that home. A noble husband, a faithful father, a most loyal friend. Into the sacredness of the grave I will not intrude. We can allude to his great tenderness and love in that home which he built. God be thanked for such men, they make life sweeter and happier. The world is better because of the life of Jacob Hoysradt. How beautiful and loving was his life in the family. Man is most like God when he is with his family as father and friend. Ours is the loss, thine the gain. Rest on [?] until bye and bye the love of the Father gathers us all in His arms.

CLOSING SCENES

At the conclusion of Mr. Rogers' remarks, he read a lengthy poem which was very touching. After a prayer by the same clergyman the quartette sang "Oh Paradise, Oh Paradise" in a very impressive manner. As the friends were passing out from the house many workingmen and business men came in to take a last look at their faithful friend and townsman.

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