

[Irish, Silas]

SOUTH BUTLER

One of the oldest and most highly respected citizens of this place, Mr. Silas Irish, died at his home at the M. P. parsonage, Friday afternoon, March 20, at about 5:30 o'clock. With the exception of being a little feeble, Mr. Irish had been in his usual health until Wednesday prior to his death, when he was taken with apoplexy which was the cause of his death. He was born near Cooperstown, April 25, 1825, therefore was nearly 89 years of age. For 79 years he had lived in and near Cooperstown. Since the death of his wife, about ten years ago, he had made his home with his only daughter, Mrs. Ivan J. Howland. He was a member of the Universalist church of Fly Creek, but in belief and practice he knew no creed, only the better you live here, the better and happier hereafter. "Grandpa Irish," as he was called by all, had lived in this place for about six years, and was a friend to everyone. He was unusually bright for a man of his years, and was always ready to take a joke, and not slow in returning one, being very witty and jolly. He took great delight in calling on his many friends, and no one was ever more welcome in nearly every home in Butler, than Grandfather Irish. To the very youngest as well to the older ones, he proved the truth of the saying, "He who [would] have friends, must show himself friendly." He will be greatly missed in this community, but he will always live in the memory of many warm hearts, and the universal regret is that we could not have had an earlier acquaintance with him. He is survived by one daughter, Mrs. Ivan J. Howland; one sister, Mrs. Mary Smith; and one brother, Spencer Irish of Fly Creek, N.Y., and a grand-daughter, Miss Ethelyn Simons of Freeport, L.I. The funeral was held in the M. P. church, Sunday afternoon, at 2:30 o'clock, Rev. B. J. Fultz, officiating. Three selections were rendered by the choir, the last one, "Good-night, But Not Farewell," being very appropriate. There were some very beautiful floral tributes, one large piece being presented by the M. P. church, and a large basket of beautiful flowers was presented by the proprietor and employees of the Hibbard Basket Works. Monday morning the remains, accompanied by Rev. Ivan J. Howland, Rev. B. J. Fultz, W. M. Pasco and Rev. E. D. Ridgeway of Ilion, were taken to Fly Creek where the funeral was held at the Universalist church at 3:30 p.m. Mr. and Mrs. George Holbrook of that place, rendered some very fine selections. He was laid at rest beside his wife in the Fly Creek village cemetery. His daughter, Mrs. Ivan J. Howland, was too ill to make the journey to Fly Creek.

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Transcribed on 6 Feb 2010 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY