

[Jenks, James M.]

James M. Jenks, an Old and Honored Resident of Rome, Gone

James M. Jenks died of the grip at the home of his son, W. O. Jenks, 303 Kossuth street, at 9 P.M., on Sunday in his 83d year. He had been ailing for about a week, but kept about the house until Friday, when he was compelled to take to his bed. His condition on Friday and Saturday did not seem alarming, but on Sunday a change for the worse was noted and the patient sank rapidly all day. The end came very suddenly to those who were watching at the sick man's bedside, but death was easy and painless. He "wrapped the drapery of his couch about him and lay down to pleasant dreams."

James Madison Jenks was born in Delhi, Delaware county, on March 2, 1809. His boyhood was spent on the paternal farm, but he soon struck out for himself, locating in Connecticut, where he followed various branches of business. In his young manhood he traveled extensively in the south and southwest, selling goods, and afterward settled in one of the southern states as a merchant. About 1850 he went west and located in Ohio, where he became engaged in the then new business of daguerreotyping. Photographs and ambrotypes were at that time unknown. All camera-made pictures were taken on copper plates, which were silver-plated and highly polished. After living in Painesville and Wooster, O., for a time Mr. Jenks went to Chicago, where he lived for a time. On July 4, 1859, he came with his family to Rome. Ambrotypes were then the leading style of picture and Mr. Jenks opened a gallery in a car which formerly stood at the corner of Huntington and James streets. After a few months he established himself in the Hill (now the Saulpaugh) block, at the corner of James and Dominick streets, where he did a flourishing business. In 1866 he suffered an affection of the eyes which compelled him to give up his business. His eyes grew gradually worse until, about four years ago, he became totally blind.

Mr. James was a man of many excellent qualities, upright and honorable in all his dealings with his fellow men. Equal and exact justice to all was his motto through life and to that line he hewed. A man of naturally active habits and nervous temperament, the affliction which darkened the latter part of his life seemed to him at times to be almost unbearable. But he exercised the power of a strong will to make the best of his condition. Mr. Jenks possessed a keen, active mind, rare intelligence and sound judgment. Before his sight was affected he was a great reader and always kept fully abreast of the times. He was a devoted admirer of Shakespeare and there was probably in Rome no closer student of the great playwright and poet than he. In political affiliation he was always a Democrat, and he was proud

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to be able to say that his first vote was for Andrew Jackson for president. He was a member of the Universalist Church.

Mr. Jenks was twice married. His first wife died many years ago and his second [Achsah Jenks] in January, 1891. He leaves two sons by his first wife: William W. Jenks of Holyoke, Mass., and Marshall P. Jenks of Meadville, Pa., and a son and daughter by his second: W. [Wooster] O. Jenks and Miss Agnes M. [May] Jenks of Rome.

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