

[Keller, George]

DEATH OF GEORGE KELLER

An Old Resident of Little Falls Passes to His Reward—
Sketch of an Eventful Life

George Keller was born November 19th, 1829, on a farm about two miles north of this city. His father, David Keller, gave all his sons the advantage of a good education. The son, George attended the academy in this city during the winters and taught school in the summers. He began his business career by engaging as a clerk in M. S. VanSlyke's grocery store. Mr. VanSlyke lasted for three years, and in 1854 he [George] started in the grocery business on his own account. His place of business was in the old Bellinger building. In 1859 Mr. Keller built the block in which the Union store is now located. Later he moved to Richfield Springs and purchased the farm which Richard Croker now owns. He resided there during the early part of the [Civil] war. In 1863 he returned to Little Falls and commenced the erection of what was for many years known as the old Keller block. It was completed in 1865. Keller Hall, for many years the only hall of its size in the city, was located in this block. Mr. Keller conducted a grocery store in this block from 1865 to 1874. In 1874 he purchased a farm in Bath, Steuben county, and resided there one year. The farm is now owned and occupied by the state soldiers' home. He returned to Little Falls and had been engaged in various business enterprises up to his final illness. His business career covered a period of 42 years. As a business man he was scrupulously honest and upright in his dealings with his fellow men.

Mr. Keller was a Democrat in politics and in his younger days he was prominent in the councils of his party. He held the office of supervisor of the town for three terms, succeeding the late Gen. Priest. He was also village trustee and school commissioner. He was also a member of the Universalist church and was closely identified with the temperance movement for the past 20 years. He was president of the first reform club in the city. Mr. Keller, Morgan Bidleman and John Devendorf were the builders of the suspension bridge at Fincks Basin.

In 1854 Mr. Keller was married to Margaret Gray, who with 65 children survives. The surviving children are Horace of Utica, George E., Mrs. William Beattle and Mrs. Fanny Miller of this city and Mrs. C. C. Jarvis of Troy. Three brothers also survive. They are Amos and Jacob of this city and Levi of Bath, Steuben county.

Mr. Keller was an honest, conscientious man. His sterling qualities won him the respect and regard of all with whom he came in contact. As a husband he was devoted, kind and true, and as a father he was self sacrificing and generous. The funeral will be held Thursday and will be in [the] charge of the local lodge of Masons, of which he had been a member for over 30 years.

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