

[Kemper, Daniel]

DANIEL KEMPER

For the second time within the past few weeks, Newark has been called upon to mourn the death of a nonagenarian. Daniel Kemper died at eleven o'clock Saturday night, October 26th, at the ripe old age of ninety-three years and nearly three months. He was the oldest resident but one in this town, Homer Hamilton being his senior by about three months.

Daniel Kemper was born in Chatham, N.Y., and while yet a boy went to Hudson to learn the trade, or art, of making morocco. When about eighteen years of age he bought a shop of his own in Hudson, selling his goods to New York parties. His fame as an expert in the business spread, and a New York firm of which Haight, who built the Fifth Avenue Hotel, was then a member, got him to conduct a morocco business for them. They furnished the capital for him to erect and start a large factory at Westport, Conn., and he did for them a very successful business. While in Westport, the firm sent him to England to buy skins, their supply having run out. He arranged to go on the steamer President, and missed her to New York by two hours, and he was obliged to wait for the next ship. It was a providential accident, however, for the President was never heard from after leaving port. Mr. Kemper while in England purchased (45,000?) dozen sheep skins, and before he left for home prices had gone up so that the advance on the skins he had purchased amounted to more than £30,000. He conducted the business for several years more, and in 1842 came up here and purchased a farm east of town, on which he lived about eight years, when he moved into town, purchasing the house now owned by Theo. Horton. A little later he traded his farm for the house in which he has lived ever since, on Vienna street.

In 1824 Mr. Kemper married Bethia Van Valkenburgh in Hudson. By her two sons were born, all the children Mr. Kemper ever had. The survive him—Morton Kemper, of Louisville, Kas., and Major John H. Kemper, of this village, who never married and has always lived with his father. In 1864 Mrs. Kemper died, and a few years later Mr. K., while on a visit to Westport, Conn., met and married a Mrs. Perry, who died about three years ago. By this union there were no children.

Mr. Kemper in his prime was a vigorous, industrious, well informed, manly man, respected by all who knew him. He was honorable and upright, and is highly spoken of by all old residents. He was an intensely interesting man to talk with, and retained his faculties and vigor to a wonderful degree, even into old age. On the 15th of May last he had a severe sickness, and has since failed gradually. During his last years he has had the tender and

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unremitting care of his son, Major Kemper, who has done all in his power to make the closing events of his aged father's life comfortable and pleasant.

The funeral was held yesterday afternoon in the Universalist church, and the church was filled by those who wished to pay their last respects to an aged citizen. Dr. Tomlinson, the pastor, who has been acquainted with deceased for many years, officiated, and his discourse was deeply impressive. The remains were interred in the East cemetery.

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