

## [Kimball, Woodman]

### WOODMAN KIMBALL DEAD

#### DECEASE OF AN OLD AND HONORED RESIDENT OF ROME

Old Age and Heart Failure the Causes of Death—For Many Years a Prominent Contractor and Builder—A Partial List of the Buildings He Erected in Rome

Woodman Kimball died at his home, No. 318 West Dominick street at 2:15 A.M. to-day, of old age and heart failure, aged 85 years. He had been in poor health for some time, and had done no business for six or seven years. He suffered an attack of illness in October, but recovered so that he was able to be about. About two weeks ago he was taken down again, and was confined to bed till his death.

Woodman Kimball was born in Penbrook [Pembroke], New Hampshire, in 1804, and was of a family of four children, all of whom are now dead. His early life was spent in Boston, Mass., where he learned the mason's trade. About 1828 he removed to Utica and lived there ten years or more, going through the terrible cholera siege of 1832. In the winter of 1839 he went to Baldwinsville, Onondaga county, and there started a lath mill, making the first sawed lath ever manufactured in this state. While in Utica he was engaged in contracting and building, and put up a number of large structures in that city. In 1839 he and a man named J. C. Shippe secured the contract for building the first combined locks on the Black River Canal, near Boonville, and Mr. Kimball removed to that town.

In 1840 he removed to the town of Rome, locating on a farm near Ridge Mills. He continued in the contracting and building business in the village of Rome and lived here until his death. Mr. Kimball was an active and honored citizen. In his younger days he took great interest in politics and was an earnest member of the Whig and Republican parties. Caucuses and conventions of his party were pretty sure to find him on hand. He held the office of trustee of the village of Rome and was also a member of the board of school trustees. He ran for county treasurer on the Whig ticket in the Huntington-Matteson campaign of 1854 and was defeated. In 1860 he was appointed superintendent of the Black River Canal. While a resident of Utica he joined the Universalist Church, and remained steadfast in the faith all the days of his life. He was one of the founders and organizers of the Universalist Church of Rome, and was a member of the board of trustees from the organization of the church. Most of the time he was president of the board, and held that office when he died.

In 1829 while living in Utica Mr. Kimball went to Grafton, Vermont and married Miss Hannah Smith, who died in Rome in 1863. In 1865 he married Miss Clarissa Pease of Rome, who survives. By his first wife Mr. Kimball had six children—five daughters and one son. Of these, three survive—Mrs. A.

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M. Jackson and Miss Emily Kimball of Rome, and Mrs. Edward Van Vleck of Oswego.

During many years Mr. Kimball was one of the most prominent contractors and builders in central New York. He took a number of railroad contracts, among them one in the old Ogdensburg, Clayton & Rome Railroad. Under Mr. Kimball's direction the boring of the tunnel a few miles north of this city was done. When the Erie canal was enlarged Mr. Kimball did a great deal of the contract work. He also did railroad building in the state of Ohio. For many years he carried on a brick yard in the eastern part of this city, and was one of the most active and enterprising business men in Rome.

Among the more important buildings erected in Rome by Mr. Kimball are the following:

In 1838, for Mudge & Doty, a block of three stories on the corner of James and Dominick streets; burned and rebuilt by Dr. Kinglsey.

In 1844, for A. Ford, Stanwix Hall; for Mr. Giles, store on West Dominick street, now occupied by J. D. Ely & Co.; old arcade building, now stores, between J. D. Ely & Co., and the Central National bank; house and barn for Edward Huntington, on West Liberty street.

In 1845, the Merrill block, corner of James and Dominick streets; J. D. Higgin's blacksmith shop on South James street.

In 1846, the Empire block for Simon Matteson; American for Simon and Jesse Matteson; store for Robert Walker now occupied by Golly, Huggins & Co.; store west of latter for the late Judge S. B. Roberts, on West Dominick street.

In 1847 the Willett House on West Dominick street for the late Dr. H. H. Pope; for Mudge, Doty & Welch, all the stores between the S. B. Roberts store and the Willett House.

In 1847, '48 and '49 all the stores from the "American Tavern" (then so called) to Stone alley on North James street; court house, jail and dwelling; house for himself at the southeast corner of George and Court streets.

In 1850 and afterward, foundry and machine shop for Seymour & Adams; the Mansion House on Whitesboro street (then called the Seymour House) for A. Sink; the store on West Dominick street, now occupied by Spencer & White; "Elm Row" (so called) from Stone Alley to Liberty street on James, for D. Utley, burned in 1866; rebuilt corner store for D. Utley; also Dr. Kingsley's block, a block for the late Henry Hayden, on N. James street, now owned by the Y.M.C.A.; all the stores on the west side of S. James street from the store occupied by Mr. Lennox to the canal except the block owned by Daniel Hager; block, formerly known as the Beecham block on S. James street; shoe factory for Kingsbury, Abbott & Hale; the first brick flouring mill for G. V. Selden; brick building for E. P. Waite & Co., afterward bought by

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Williams Bros. for a knitting mill; St. Joseph's Church; first county insane asylum; block corner of Erie Canal and James street, except middle part for A. Ethridge, now occupied by R. M. Bingham & Co.; Kelley & Gaheen's brewery; Sink's Opera House; East Rome school house; puddling mill, now used as a brass mill; engine houses on Liberty and Washington streets; A. Ethridge & Co.'s store; building corner Washington street and Erie Canal for A. Ethridge; Liberty street school house; gas works; Pritchard block and all the stores north on Washington street except the one occupied by W. W. Roberts; Brush block of dwellings, N. George street; malleable iron works; block of dwellings corner of Dominick and George streets, for Mudge & Doty, now owned by M. C. West; enlarged St. Peter's Church; round houses for R. W. & O. and Rome & Clinton roads; block of dwellings on N. Washington street now owned by Dr. Kingsley. Mr. Kimball also built a large number of dwellings in Rome, one or two blocks in Oneida, a number of buildings in Utica, six single locks and an aqueduct on the Black River Canal, and did other work. He employed many men, handled a large amount of money and did a great deal for the prosperity and advancement of Rome.

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