

[Lee, Roswell Munson]

Former Sheriff R. M. Lee Died on Monday

On Monday morning at his home in East Bloomfield occurred the death of Roswell Munson Lee. He had an attack of grippe during the winter and since that time had suffered with a gathering in his ear and head. Recently he became worse and for the past two weeks had suffered greatly. His death was due to a complication of diseases.

Mr. Lee was widely known throughout the county. He was born on September 20, 1854, the son of Colonel Seth L. and Sarah Peck Lee of East Bloomfield. His boyhood was spent in East Bloomfield and he gained his education in the school at South Bloomfield. When 18 years old he went to Belding, Mich., where he stayed four years. He returned to East Bloomfield and purchased the Lee homestead near South Bloomfield. On March 7, 1878, he was married to Ella A. Gooding. Mr. and Mrs. Lee went to his farm to reside and lived there twenty-five years. In 1903 he moved to the village where he has since resided.

Mr. Lee was prominent in Democratic politics. Early in his career he was highway commissioner of the town and deputy sheriff, and was first elected supervisor in 1895. He held that office for six terms. In 1912 he was elected sheriff of Ontario county, his personal popularity carrying him to victory in a strongly Republican county. He was a Democratic county committeeman at various times. While farming he became a successful breeder of Merino sheep and was a member of the American Merino Sheep Association. At one time he took a shipment of valuable Durham and Holstein cattle and Merino sheep to South Africa, and one of his customers was Paul Kruger, then president of the Boer Republic. Mr. Lee was a noted horseman and had for years been prominent in promoting the horse racing at the Ontario County Fair. He had several excellent horses and won many first prizes.

He is survived by his wife; three children, Raymond S. Lee of Canandaigua, Mrs. Hester A. S. Kent of East Bloomfield, and Mrs. Pauline L. Jones of Holcomb; four sisters, Mrs. Cynthia Swift of East Bloomfield and the Misses Lilla, Sarah and Inez Lee, all of Canandaigua, and four grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at his home on Wednesday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock. Rev. O. [Otis] F. Alvord, pastor of the Universalist church at Bristol, where Mr. Lee generally attended services, officiated.

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