

[Moses, Schuyler]

Schuyler Moses Dead

One of Rochester's Oldest and Most Highly Respected Citizens

This afternoon, about 2 o'clock, Schuyler Moses¹, an old and very highly esteemed resident of this city, died at his residence, No. 50 Chestnut street. Mr. Moses was in the 91st year of his age, having been born December 31, 1798 in Canton, Hartford county, Connecticut. In 1810 his father removed his family to Lenox, Madison county, N.Y., and in 1818 again moved, to the Genesee country, settling near Mt. Morris. Mr. Moses said only a few months ago, "In the fall of 1818 I worked for Ross Builder Daniel Tinker, and, with other men, cut away the wild woods on the grounds where ex-Mayor Filon's block now stands, and built a house for Job Britton, on the north side of East Main street. About where Sabey's hat store is now, a man by the name of Lindsay lived, where I boarded the summer I came to Rochester. That house has long since gone up in smoke. There was [a] stone house at the corner of East Main and North St. Paul streets, in which a tavern was kept by a man by the name of Lamb. On the northwest corner was a barn which was moved in 1820 to where Windsor Hotel is now located [and] in 1822 gave place for the First Methodist Church. In 1820 there was a stone building erected on the northwest corner of Main and St. Paul streets, two stories high, for three stores. That building gave way to the present building about forty-four years ago. The natural earth, where the Cox building now stands, was twelve to fourteen feet above the present sidewalk, and a wooden bridge over the river to Rochesterville."

For seventy years Mr. Moses watched the growth of the city. He was full of reminiscences; he delighted to tell of the older days of the city and his stories were always of interest to all. On the occasion of his ninetieth birthday last December Mr. Moses said, "My dear neighbors and friends, would it be proper on this ninetieth anniversary for me to tell you who and what I am? If so, I will say that I am the oldest Free Mason in the State of New York, having been a member of that fraternity for sixty-eight years. I am the oldest and only living member of the Valley Lodge No. 109. I am also a member of the Ruth Chapter, O.E.S. No. 8; a member of the Doric Council No. [19?] R.A.M.; a member of the Monroe Commandery No. 12, K.T., all of the city of Rochester. I am also a member of the Masonic Veterans' Association of the Pacific Coast, located at San Francisco. I am the oldest pioneer in the city of Rochester; the oldest ex-supervisor of the county of Monroe; the oldest ex-alderman in the city of Rochester; the oldest ex-assessor in the city of Rochester. I have lived longer in the same location than any other man in this city. I have lived in the Fourth Ward for sixty-three years. I voted for James Monroe in 1820, and all the presidential elections from that time till the present. I also voted for the winning candidate, Gen. Harrison. To finish up my out-of-door work, just as the sun is going down at 90 years, I was summoned as a trial juryman in the October Circuit Court in 1888, and served as such; a circumstance, I will venture to say, that has never occurred since the county was formed in 1821."

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¹ Schuyler Moses was a prominent Universalist in Rochester.