

[Olin, George Smith]

George Smith Olin

George Smith Olin, the oldest native of Canton, died at the home of his son, Arthur V. Olin, last Friday, June 22, 1906, of old age. The funeral took place Monday afternoon at two p.m., Rev. J. M. Payson [Universalist] officiating. The interment was in the Olin cemetery, of which Mr. Olin was one of the founders many years ago.

Mr. Olin was born on the old home farm in what has since come to be the Olin District ninety-five years ago, April 11, 1811. The old farm is now owned by Albert Farmer. On January 1, 1833, he married Fannie M. Barrett, of Canton. She was born August 13, 1815, and passed away some years ago. Eight children were born to them, four sons and four daughters, all of whom are living, as follows: Sidney Smith Olin, of Clinton, Iowa; Mrs. Marinda M. Olin-Alford, of Kirksville, Mo.; Oscar G. Olin, Kendrick, Fla.; Ellen R. Olin-Sweatt, of Toledo, Ia.; Arletta A. Olin-Sweatt, of Freeport, Ills.; Arthur V. Olin, of Canton, with whom the deceased has made his home for some years; Emma A. Olin Lasell, of Canton, and Alpheus Amasa Olin, of Port Byron, Rock Island Co., Ills.

Excepting one year in Potsdam, and four years in Port Byron, Ills., Mr. Olin had been a constant resident of Canton. In the thirties he was a captain of the state militia for seven years, and he was many times urged to accept a higher office, but he always refused, saying that his home life was of more importance to him. He was closely identified with the town in his younger days but he was not a seeker for office. He worked earnestly for better schools and helped to establish free libraries in rural schools, and he served as school commissioner but resigned in order to have more time at his home.

His father, Joseph Mitchell Olin, was born March 29, 1784 at Shaftsbury, Vt., his ancestors being from Wales, the original name being Llewellyn.

Mr. Olin was a man who was interested in his town and in passing events. His mental faculties were bright up to the last and his mind was a store-house, filled with the early history of the town and county. During his later years he was tenderly cared for by his son Arthur.

Mr. Olin was an intimate friend of Governor Silas Wright, and often spoke of that intimacy. He has two brothers living, James M. Olin of Oshkosh, Wisc., 86 years old, and E. R. Olin, of Brooklyn, 71 years old.

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