

[Olmstead, Henry]

Bristol Centenarian, Henry Olmstead Dies of Injuries in Fall

Bristol—Funeral services will be held at 2:30 p.m. tomorrow in the Universalist church on Baptist Hill, for Henry Olmstead, 102, who died Wednesday night (Oct. 12, 1949) in Thompson Memorial Hospital at Canandaigua. The services will be conducted by the Rev. Harry M. Wright, pastor emeritus and the Rev. Robert T. Dick, Universalist pastor.

Fell in Home

The centenarian, who attributed his longevity to pipe smoking and candy eating, broke his hip in a fall at his home Monday. A cheery man, he had been an institution for many years in the little crossroads town, which was sometimes known as Baptist Hill. He was born Mar. 7, 1847, and had lived there ever since with the exception of eight years spent nearby in the town of East Bloomfield and the township of West Bloomfield. His birthdays for many years had been marked by community celebrations, at which he always distinguished himself by eating heartily of birthday cakes prepared for him by his neighbors.

At the age of 22 in 1868 Mr. Olmstead cast his first vote in a presidential election, voting for the Republican candidate, Gen. U. S. Grant. He had voted in every presidential election since then, and had never deserted the Republican column. Alert and active until his accident, he never lost his interest in politics. His wife, the former Addie Barringer, who died a number of years ago, was also a native of Bristol, living in her youth on a farm close to that of Mr. Olmstead's family. When she died, they had been married 66 years.

Tells of First Train

A farmer for more than a half-century, Mr. Olmstead retired a number of years ago. Recently he has been living in a house just down from the Bristol four corners, where Mrs. Stella Perry served as housekeeper.

Possessed of a keen memory, Mr. Olmstead often reminisced about his early years in the Bristol area. He told of witnessing the arrival of the first train to pass through East Bloomfield.

"I was a small boy in 1862 and still can remember how slowly the locomotive proceeded. Of course, it was a wood-burning engine and hauled a car of wood right along for keeping up the steam. That was the New York Central Line from Canandaigua to Batavia."

Asked how he had managed to live to such an advanced age, he replied: "With my apples, my hard candy and my pipe, I just get along pretty good."

Surviving Mr. Olmstead is his sister, Mrs. Cora Wright of Canandaigua.

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