

[Prescott, Amos H.]

HON. AMOS PRESCOTT

In the death of Hon. Amos Prescott, which occurred Saturday evening at Herkimer at 9 o'clock, Herkimer county has sustained the loss of one of its most distinguished citizens, and the community of its most public spirited and philanthropic resident. Judge Prescott's death was not unexpected. About ten days ago he was stricken with paralysis, which then deprived him of the use of his limbs and so affected the muscles of his throat as to make it almost impossible for him to take any nourishment, and for a time prevented speech. He recovered sufficiently to be able to speak—very indistinctly, however, and from the time of his prostration till within a couple of hours of his death, was thoro'ly conscious of all that passed around him. His bedside has been surrounded by solicitous friends, but their kindly sympathy was of no avail.

Judge Prescott was a native of Oneida county, and was born in the town of New Hartford October 25, 1823, and hence lacked a few days of being 64 years of age. His educational advantages were limited, having been confined to the district schools of the county and the Sauquoit academy. He was possessed of great natural abilities, which, united with untiring energy and a strong physique, attained for him in his community a position second to none in his chosen profession, and made him for the last 30 years a prominent figure in the political and civic history of Herkimer county. He was admitted to the bar in 1847, being then a resident of the village of Mohawk, where he continued to practice his profession in partnership with the late Volney Owen. In 1870 Judge Prescott removed to Herkimer village, where he has since resided. While a resident of Mohawk he held the office of president of the village three terms, and represented the town in the board of supervisors two years. In 1855 he was elected to the assembly by the "native American" party from the second district of Herkimer county, and held important positions on committees in that body. In 1856 he was the candidate of the same party for state canal commissioner, but was defeated. Judge Prescott's most important public service has been as county judge and surrogate of Herkimer county, having been elected to that office in 1867 for a term of four years, and at its close to two successive terms of six years each. He discharged the arduous and important duties of the combined offices with impartiality and firmness, and with honor and credit to himself. He was a prominent candidate for the office of supreme court judge in the fall of 1888, having the unanimous support of the delegation from his county, but the location of one supreme court judge in Herkimer county, Judge Hardin of Little Falls, operated against his candidacy, and Hon. P. C. Williams of Watertown was nominated. Judge Prescott's legal ability and

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experience eminently qualified him for the position which he sought, and he would have ranked second to none upon the bench in his district. His services to the public generally can not be overestimated.

He was foremost in every work that tended to the promotion of religion and philanthropy in his community. The Universalist church of Herkimer, of which he was the main stay, was enabled thro' his efforts mainly to build a handsome edifice, and ever since the organization of the society he contributed largely of his means to its support. His patriotic zeal during the war of the rebellion was exhibited in efforts to promote by word and action the cause of the union. Judge Prescott became a member of the republican party soon after its organization, and has been a firm believer in and advocate of its principles ever since. Judge Prescott has been twice married, his first wife having died in 1857. In 1864 he was again married to Martha H. Dygert of Mohawk, who survives him. One son, Charles W. Prescott, by his first wife, and a young daughter [Zinnia], the sole issue of his second marriage, also survives him. Judge Prescott was a brother of Daniel M. Prescott of New Hartford, and a cousin of Hon. Cyrus D. Prescott of Rome. The funeral will occur in Herkimer Tuesday afternoon at two o'clock. Rev. J. J. Brayton of Auburn will officiate.

A meeting of the bar of Herkimer county will be held at the Herkimer county court house at 1 P.M. Tuesday, to take appropriate action upon the death of Judge Prescott.

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