

[Quaif, Robert]

DEATH OF ROBERT QUAIF

Since our last issue was sent to press, Cooperstown has lost another one of its old residents, and most prominent business men. Robert Quaif died at his home in this village on the morning of Friday, July 28th, after an illness of about two weeks, in the 79th year of his age. Until last winter, when an attack of grip fastened itself upon him, Mr. Quaif had hardly known a sick day in his life. Since that first severe illness, however, he steadily declined until the last, Bright's disease being the immediate cause of death.

Mr. Quaif was born in the town of Battle, about fifty miles south of London, England, on November 19, 1820. When nine years of age he came to this country, settling in Albany, where he found employment with the old Dutch family of the Van Wormers. In a short time his parents moved to Parish, Oswego county, and later Mr. Quaif and his brother found their way into the town of Otsego. After learning the methods of the American farmer of that day, Mr. Quaif bought the farm in the Flycreek valley, which he owned and took a deep interest in as long as he lived.

In 1857 he began to deal in hops and his business developed to such an extent that in 1865 he gave up farming and moved to this village where he has since resided. He was widely known throughout the country as an expert judge of hops and for many years was the trusted agent for some of the largest brewing concerns in the United States. His hop business was the oldest established business of its kind in the county, and there were at his death only two active hop dealers in the world older than himself.

For thirteen years Mr. Quaif was village trustee, and for a time was president of the board. For several years he was a director in the Second National bank of Cooperstown, and for some time past was its vice president. He was for many years a prominent Mason, and treasurer of the Lodge. He was a regular attendant at the Universalist church, in whose affairs he took a strong interest. His long business career was marked by uprightness and integrity, and as a man he was genial, pleasant, companionable, and kind. He was a model husband and an indulgent father. His first wife was a daughter of Nehemiah Hinds; he was married to her in January, 1844, and she died in January, 1859; they had one child that died in its infancy. In January, 1861, he married Miss Mary F. Hurd of Middlefield, and he is survived by her and two sons, Fred L. and Robert, Jr.; one daughter [Lizzie] died when about 18 years of age. He also leaves a brother.

The funeral services, held from his late home on Monday afternoon, were conducted by the Rev. Mr. Perry and the attendance was large. The pall-bearers were B. F. Murdock, H. K. Murdock, G. Pomeroy Keese, M. R. Stocker, Wm. C. Bailey and Hiram E. Kinne. The directors and officers of the Second National bank were present in a body. A quartette, consisting of Mrs. Jerome Fish, Miss Alice Fish, E. D. Stocker and W. F. Martin, rendered appropriate singing. The stores of the village were closed during the passing of the funeral cortege. Interment in Lakewood cemetery.

Otsego Farmer, Cooperstown NY, Fri. 4 Aug 1899