

[Ray, George]

BRIDGEWATER

George Ray died Friday morning in his 91st year in the home he has occupied for many years. Until a few weeks past he has been a familiar figure on our streets, active and vigorous for his years. He was the son and last survivor of the eleven children born to William and Eunice Luce Ray. Born in Middlefield, Otsego county, July 7, 1826, he was eight years old when the family removed here, so our village has been his home since early boyhood. In 1844 he married Miss Amanda Hammond, who died in 1853. He married Eliza Ann Reynolds in Deansville [on] June 12, 1854. Their son and only child, Theodore Ray, was for many years connected with the Utica Daily Press. He died April 29, 1912, his mother dying the year before. Five grandsons survive, George P., Theodore, Henry P., Russell F. and Byron S. Ray. All reside here but Theodore, whose home is in Sauquoit. There are also several nephews and nieces. George Ray's father, Wm. Ray, served in the War of 1812, participating in many battles. When the call to arms came George Ray responded and in 1862 he enlisted in Co. G, 146th Reg. N.Y. Vols. The old Hibbard House, where so many of our young men enlisted, was a patriotic center [in] those days. The company went to Rome to be mustered in. Wounded in the battle of Fredericksburg, George Ray was later discharged from the hospital in 1863. George Ray was a member of Searle Post, No. 448. Mr. Ray was a mechanic of ability and led a most industrious life until about three years ago. In early days he was a stage driver on the then great thoroughfare from Albany to Buffalo. He guided his four strong horses as they made the day trip from Cherry Valley here. On stinging wintry days he whipped his hands so they would not freeze, and the roads were rough. With a swing they came dashing into the home town. Later he drove the stage on the New Berlin to Utica route, his drive one day being to New Berlin, the next day to Utica. Our now-quiet village was some center when the great stages came wheeling in from north and south, from east and west. He could give a vivid picture of those days. Mr. Ray was a member of the Universalist Church and for many years sang in the choir. He was a strong Republican and had the offices of collector and constable. Rev. DeWitt Lamphear of Madison, a former pastor, came to officiate at the funeral. There was a prayer in the home at 2 o'clock, and full service in the Universalist Church, just across the street. Four honor bearers, John Williams, Leroy Maxson, Milton Tripp and Henry Robinson, all veterans, preceded, and the grandsons, with a nephew, Ernest Williams, carried the casket draped with Old Glory. At the grave, quite near the church, Edward Clarke sounded taps. Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Ray of Sauquoit and Mrs. Jennie Tefft of Richfield Springs were here for the funeral.

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