

[Reed, Clarissa A. Richardson]

"500" As Pastime of Lyons Woman at 95 Milestone

LYONS, Jan. 22.—Mrs. Clarissa Reed, whose father declined in 1800 to purchase the site of the present city of Rochester because "it looked too swampy" is to-day celebrating her ninety-fifth birthday at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Leah M. Feilock, 15 Foster st. She is the oldest inhabitant of this village and possibly of this town. She is surrounded by a little party consisting of her son and daughter, three grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. Although averring to your correspondent that 95 years is too long for any person to live, a physician remarked that she had no organic trouble, and stood excellent chances, barring accidents, of living 15 years longer.

Mrs. Reed was born on a farm near the village of Victor, Monroe [should be Ontario] county, Jan. 22, 1820, the "farm" being a mere clearing or slashing in a dense forest. Her father, Jeremiah Richardson, left New Hampshire in the spring of 1800 in an ox-cart with his wife and started for "the West." At the end of about 90 days he arrived at the falls of the Genesee where now stands the city of Rochester. There was here and there a log cabin. A real estate agent tried to sell Mr. Richardson 640 acres of the Genesee falls, but in the eyes of Pioneer Richardson, it was not a good purchase, it being "a trifle wet and swampy. So he pushed on and settled in Victor, on a place now occupied by a grandson. Pioneer [Nathaniel] Rochester happened along a short time later and bought that "swamp," which is now the flourishing city of Rochester.

On this farm in Victor in 1843, Mrs. Reed was married to the late Henry Reed who died some years ago. Up to about 13 years ago, Mrs. Reed kept house and attended to all her household duties without assistance. She made her home with Mrs. Feilock. She takes care of her own room and assists in the household work, claiming to feel younger than her daughter.

Mrs. Reed is in excellent physical condition despite her years. She is compelled to use glasses to read fine print, but her memory is excellent and her hearing unimpaired. She remembers back to the days when Andrew Jackson was president of the United States, and having always been a great reader, keeps abreast of the times. She plays 500 for pastime and keeps such close attention to the game that it is seldom she is beaten. She has been a member of the Universalist Church at Victor ever since that denomination existed there [in 1834].

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She is the last survivor of a family of 11 children, of which she was the youngest member. Her present family consists of a son, Henry Reed, who lives on the family homestead at Victor, and a daughter, Mrs. John [Leah] Feiock, living here. If there is anybody in Lyons who enjoys life and can look back into the past and recall events for over three score and ten years, it is Mrs. Clarissa Reed.

*Syracuse Journal*, Syracuse NY, Fri. 22 Jan 1915

Mrs. Clarissa A. Reed, formerly of Victor, died yesterday in Lyons, aged 95 years.

*Daily News*, Batavia NY, Mon. 3 May 1915

Transcribed on 2 Apr 2024 by Karen E. Dau of East Rochester, NY