

[Ross, Samuel]

From "Historical and Biographical Reminiscences of Schuyler [County]

SAMUEL ROSS was born in Perry county, Pa., Sept. 15th, 1805, and was the son of Samuel and Margaret Ross. His grandfather's name was also Samuel, and both father and grandfather were residents of Landisburg, in Perry county. His grandmother's maiden name was Buchanan, and she was a relative of President James Buchanan. George Ross, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, was a brother of Samuel Ross, the grandfather; and the latter was a colonel in the Revolutionary War. The great-grandfather was a native of Scotland, and moved from there to Ireland, where he remained a few years, then immigrated to this country, first settling in Maryland, and after in Perry county, Pa., as above noted, and became an extensive land holder in that State.

The father of the subject of our sketch came with his family from Pennsylvania, and settled in what is now the town of Starkey, Yates county, in 1807, and died there Dec. 1st, 1860—his wife having died previously, Dec. 12th, 1830. Both were buried in the old Starkey cemetery. They had 11 children, of whom Samuel was the fourth.

From the age of 13 till 18, Samuel Ross worked for Capt. John Diven—father of Wm. and Alexander Diven, one of the pioneers of northern Dix—during the summers and attended district school in winter. In 1827 he went into Reading and worked three years on the farm of the widow Thankful Davis, a portion of which became his future home. He was married April 16th, 1829, to Thankful Myers, daughter of Jacob and Ruth Myers. Mrs. Ross was born Nov. 15th, 1808. They had 5 children, Eli T., (father of Mrs. A. S. Clement), Almeda and Alzada L. (twins), Wm. P. and D. Lanning Ross.

Mr. Ross was a life-long and most successful farmer—one of the most thorough and reliable in town. In politics he was first a Whig, then a Republican, and lastly a Prohibitionist, and was sternly opposed to the manufacture and sale of all intoxicating beverages. He was identified with the temperance movement for over 45 years, and because of his earnestness and activity in that cause, he has been called "the Neal Dow of Schuyler county." He served as assessor of the town at various times, commissioner of highways, and overseer of the poor 12 years or more. In religious belief he was a Universalist, and was bold and decided in avowing his doctrine and sentiments. He, in common with his brothers and sisters—James, Alexander, Margaret, William, Thomas, John, Anna, Joseph, Mary and Jane—passed away some years ago, having been perhaps, because of his greater energy and decision of character, the most conspicuous member of the Ross family in Schuyler.

Watkins Express, Watkins NY, Thu. 9 Apr 1891

Transcriber's note: Per his gravestone in the Old Reading Cemetery in Reading, Schuyler Co. NY, Samuel Ross died on 18 Mar 1881.