

## [Skeels, Err]

### Death of Err Skeels

Mr. Err Skeels died at his home in Palmyra, Jan. 25, 1908.

Noting the death of one who has lived the life of the late Err Skeels, there is much to be recorded beyond the mere record of birth, occupation and departure. Those who knew him best and were fortunate enough to enjoy his confidence and companionship were enabled daily to see evidences of character and thought which are uncommon.

It would be impossible indeed for anyone to associate with one so ever ready to help the unfortunate or to accommodate a neighbor without being reminded of our Lord when saying "whatsoever ye would that men [would] do to you, do ye also to them for this is the law and the prophets."

Mr. Skeels, in his younger days, was naturally social and affable and always popular with those with whom he mingled, but years of hard work and failing health made it necessary to give up much of outside pleasures, yet he greatly enjoyed and appreciated the society of his neighbors. His greatest pleasure however was with his immediate family. He was a loving and devoted husband and a kind father.

Mr. Skeels was born Feb. 22, 1835, on a farm at Springwater, Livingston Co., which his father [Isaac and his mother Anne Eggleston Skeels] settled upon and cleared. In 1861 he was married to Miss Henrietta T. Pursell [Purcell]. Four children were born to them, all boys of which the third, Err H., died in infancy, leaving Fred W. Skeels and Welbert [Wilbert M.] Skeels who reside at Palmyra and Ray M. Skeels of Buffalo.

Mr. Skeels descended from sturdy Welsh ancestors, his grandfather settling in Vermont during the early history of this country. He was always a great reader, a deep thinker, and had very pronounced views upon the subjects of religion, politics and science. While he usually affiliated with the democratic party he had no apology for dishonesty or unfair methods. He lived the life of a true Christian, a believer in the Universalist church holding as his creed that a just God would not forever punish as no one whom he had created could be without some saving qualifications. He, from early manhood, was always ready to give a reason for his confidence of a bright and happy future. During his suffering years he had often expressed his entire willingness to go to his Maker.

Surely such a memory as this will do much to alleviate the sufferings of the sorrowing ones left behind. May God comfort them as He alone can.

*Cohocton Times-Index*, Cohocton NY, Wed. 12 Feb 1908