

[Smith, Robert]

*Sudden Death of Another Old and Respected Citizen*—On Sunday morning last at about half past nine our people were startled by the report that Mr. Robert Smith had died suddenly of heart disease. The report proved only too true. Mr. Smith it appears arose at about nine and was apparently as well in health as he had been for some time. He was sitting in a chair by the stove and had stooped over to fasten his shoes. His daughter, Mrs. Dempsey, was temporarily absent, and when she returned after about two or three minutes, she noticed that her father had not changed his position. Speaking to him she received no answer; becoming alarmed she stepped up to him and raised him up. He was gasping for breath and unable to speak. She being now thoroughly alarmed laid his head back in his chair and ran across the way and alarmed Mr. John Miller, a brother-in-law; when they returned to the room, Mr. Smith was still sitting in the chair as his daughter had left him. The two then carried him to his bed and he spoke and asked for water. He also said, "Oh, don't touch me, you hurt me so." These were the last words he spoke. Dr. Weyburn was summoned at once, but when he arrived a few moments later the sufferer was beyond his aid and death ensued a few minutes after the physician saw him. He at once pronounced it a case of rheumatism of the heart.

Mr. Smith was born in Suffolk Co. England on the 25th day of May, 1805. He emigrated to this country in 1832, landing at Onondaga Hill, Onondaga Co., in June of that year. There he lived five years following the occupation of farming. There he buried two sons. From Onondaga Co. he came to Geneva in the spring of 1837, and took up the occupation of cartman. He was a man of very generous impulses and made many friends. His hospitality was proverbial among his friends, and no man, woman or child ever came to his door hungry without being fed, and many of his fellow countrymen have sat at his board for long periods and he was never the one to say "go," and yet he received no remuneration. The writer of this was when a young man just starting in life a recipient of his generous, kindly heart. Having finished his trade and wishing to engage in business, but not having the means, Mr. Smith came promptly forward and loaned the boy all the money he had, and it was a goodly sum for him. He would neither take any security for his money nor allow any interest to be paid on it, simply trusting to the young man to pay when he became able. Such was the man at heart who was followed on Wednesday afternoon last to his final resting place in beautiful Glenwood by a large concourse of relatives and sympathizing friends. Mr. Smith was a rough man in many of his ways and had his faults, and who has not?, but he was a warm and generous friend, a kind husband and father, a good citizen, and passed away having the respect of almost the entire community. He leaves behind five daughters, all married; seven grand children and four great-grand children. The funeral services were held at the Universalist church, the Rev. Mr. Perkins, of Clifton Springs, [a Methodist] officiating.

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