

[Snow, Benjamin Bradford]

B. B. SNOW CLAIMED BY DEATH First Head of Schools Here Is Deeply Mourned

Benjamin Bradford Snow, first superintendent of schools in Auburn, passed away last night at the home of his son in Rochester, Dr. Sherley [Shirley] R. Snow. He had passed his 90th year, having been born on Cape Cod, January 4, 1830.

Coming to Cayuga County in 1831, he spent his whole life here until his retirement from the position that he had held here in the public schools for 31 years, and in 1901 he went to Rochester to spend the sunset of life with his son. He was then 70 years of age, but his experience and ability as an educator caused him to be drafted into public life again and he served for several terms on the Board of Education in Rochester.

Several years ago at the request of The Citizen he furnished a brief biography of himself in his own handwriting. Age had brought him failing eyesight, but his writing is clear and simple. His sketch follows:

"Benjamin Bradford Snow, son of Simpkins and Nancy Sherley Snow, was born on Cape Cod in the town of Orleans, January 4, 1830. In the Spring of 1831 the family migrated to the town of Niles in Cayuga County, where his great grandfather, Job Sherley, a Revolutionary soldier, had settled some 20 years before. They were three weeks making the trip from Cape Cod to Niles. On the 1st of April, 1841, the family moved to Auburn, and in the following Fall Benjamin entered the Auburn Academy where he studied for six years. He had as schoolmates at this time Frederick W. Seward, Roscoe Conklin and Clarence A. Seward. In the Fall of 1847 he entered the sophomore class of Hamilton College from which he graduated in 1850. The following year he entered the law office of Allen & Pomeroy as a law student and was admitted to the bar in December, 1852. The next year he was appointed deputy county clerk and served in that capacity for five years when in 1858 he was elected county clerk and reelected for a second term in 1861. On the expiration of this term he was appointed provost marshal for the Twenty-fourth Congressional District which then comprised the counties of Cayuga, Seneca and Wayne, holding this position until the close of the war when the office was abolished.

"For five years he was engaged in manufacturing and when the public school system was adopted he was appointed the first superintendent of schools in Auburn. On his 70th birthday in 1900 he tendered his resignation to the Board of Education to become effective

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in the Fall of the following year. He then retired and took up his residence with his son in Rochester "

The simple biography closes with a characteristic specimen of the quaint humor which made Professor Snow loved by all who knew him: "He was a fairly good egg." His friends will declare that this is modest in the extreme, for they put him down as "Extra first."

Most of Auburn's prominent business and professional men now past the prime of life pay tribute to life and teachings of this grand old man who brought down from his New England ancestry the highest ideals of what constitutes a Christian gentleman. He was a lineal descendant of Governor Bradford of the first Massachusetts colony, and both sides of descent were from fine old colonial stock.

Held Many Positions of Trust.

During his public life in Auburn he held many positions of trust, among them being a member of the Board of Trustees of the Cayuga County Savings Bank, a trustee of the Seymour Library, trustee of Fort Hill Cemetery, trustee of the Auburn City Hospital, trustee of the First Universalist Church, and besides he was a member of the Historical Society and served for three years as member of the Board of Education

In November, 1856, he married Miss Elizabeth Robinson, daughter of the late Horatio Robinson [MD], whose death occurred in Rochester a few years ago [in 1916]. He is survived by a son, Dr. Sherley [Shirley] R. Snow of Rochester, two daughters, Mrs. Florence S. Lee of Rochester and Miss Mary Snow of Wellesley College and several grandchildren. He has no blood relations left in Auburn, but relatives of his wife still reside here with whom Professor Snow visited each Summer going or coming from his cottage at Ensenore.

The body will be brought to Auburn where funeral services will be held Saturday afternoon at 4 o'clock in the First Universalist Church. Burial will be in Fort Hill Cemetery.

Auburn Citizen, Auburn, NY, Fri. 2 Apr 1920

Transcribed on 2 Jul 2008 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY