

[Spayth, Henry]

HENRY SPAYTH

Henry Spayth[,] an old and respected citizen of Buffalo, died at his home in this village on Aug. 9th, after an illness of several months, at the advanced age of 79 years. He was born in Pennsylvania in 1825 and removed to Williamsville at an early age, and going to Buffalo, entered upon his business career in 1845. For 36 years he was connected with the Cornell Lead Co., now a branch of the National Lead Co., in the various capacities of bookkeeper, director and treasurer, a fact which speaks volumes for his integrity, executive ability and the faithful discharge of his duties. In 1888 he resigned, and while not being actively engaged since has devoted considerable of his time to the real estate business. Mr. Spayth for many years was a trustee and treasurer of the [Universalist] Church of the Messiah at Buffalo, and had always taken great interest in the welfare of this organization. Probably Mr. Spayth will be best remembered by his proficiency in the game of checkers, no less than five books having been written by him. In 1860 he published the "American Draught Player," a work of about 300 pages, containing 1,700 games and positions. In 1863, the "Game of Draughts" with 500 games and positions; these were the product of years of scientific study and research, and are today, after thirty years publication, the standard works of authority on the game, and are as well known in Europe and Australia as in the United States. In 1895 he issued the "Checker Player" and followed it in 1897, with an "Appendix to the Checker Player", books with over 1,000 games, in which he has gone more deeply into the intricacies of play than in his earlier works. For over 17 years Mr. Spayth was the champion player of the United States, finally being defeated by the great Scottish player, Jas. Wylie. During the past ten years he has made a specialty of simultaneous play having as many as thirty opponents in a single evening's play at this style of game. In six exhibitions recently in Detroit, against strong players, he won 128, lost 3, drew 26, a record unequalled, and when Mr. Spayth's age is taken into consideration, little short of marvelous. For the past five years he has lived a quiet life in his country home, and while physically he has shown time's inevitable marks, his mental faculties retained all of their remarkable keenness and mathematical accuracy. Mr. Spayth was married in 1851 to Caroline Post, who with one son, Mr. H. Spayth of Buffalo, survives. He is also survived by one brother Mr. John Spayth of this village. The funeral services were held from the late home this afternoon at 2:30 o'clock, Rev. Mr. [Herbert Philbrook] Morrell of Grace Universalist Church of Buffalo officiating. Interment was made in Forest Lawn.

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