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CHARLES STANDART

Death of the Man Who Was Probably the Oldest Auburnian

HAD LIVED ALMOST A CENTURY

Sketch of the Unostentatious Life of One Who Always Adhered to His Convictions  
and Whose Manly Vigor in Old Age Was Little Short of Remarkable—  
Arrangements for the Funeral

In the death of Charles Standart, which occurred in his beautiful home in North street, on Saturday evening last, Auburn loses, beyond question, her oldest resident. Mr. Standart had lived a life of unusual length, and a life, though somewhat uneventful it is true, yet fruitful in good to his fellow-men. Ninety-four years of age at the time of his death he was, and until recent years, in a remarkable degree, strong in body and mind. It was his wont to innocently boast of his unimpaired faculties and to pride himself in the number of his years. He was one of the few able to look back with complacency on a life well spent, a life not devoid of personal sacrifice for the good of the community, and a life in which every one of the many years numbered good deeds unostentatiously done. Freed entirely from worldly cares of every description, his declining years were spent in quiet and thorough, though limited, enjoyment of life.

The death of the man has aroused much comment on his life. He was universally known to the older residents of the city, and even to the more recent arrivals his name soon had a familiar sound. People are beginning to recollect instances of his open heartedness, which, occurring so quietly that they made but little impression on the mind at the time, are now recalled to memory by his death. A manliness of disposition and kindness of manner won for him friendship wherever he was known. His contemporaries have all passed away long ago, but men well up in years now, who knew the old gentleman as a counsellor and friend in their youth, are now regretting his death.

Mr. Standart was never prominent in official circles. A retiring disposition made office seeking impossible, but during the prime of his life, honors of such a nature would have been showered upon him had he given any evidence of willingness to accept them. Perhaps the only municipal office he accepted was that of excise commissioner, and it was in the righteous discharge of the duties of this office that he encountered the opposition of the opponents of law and order, and suffered the penalty. A few years ago his phenomenal health failed him, and the infirmities of old age came upon him. Stroke of paralysis succeeded stroke, and illness, illness. A number of times he was said to have been at death's door, but he fought the grim reaper off, time and time again, until Saturday evening. During the past

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Winter, although not confined to his bed, it was apparent that age was overcoming him and it was not expected that he would survive for any length of time. A short time ago he was stricken with paralysis, for the sixth time. He was attended by Dr. Moses M. Frye and it was thought that death would result very soon. The old gentleman lingered on, however, for more than two weeks and on Saturday evening passed peacefully away.

Charles Standart was born in the village of New Hartford, Oneida county, May 30, 1802, shortly after the exciting campaign in which Jefferson defeated John Adams for the presidency. He came of a long lived race, his grandfather and father both dying at an advanced age. The former was a purser of a British man of war, and after an honorable career in the navy, died in 1798. George Standart, the father of the subject of this sketch, was born in Boston in 1766. He was brought up in that city and at an early age was apprenticed to the trade of shoemaking. He followed his trade as a journeyman for a number of years, but on account of his ill health and the need of open air exercise, was compelled at length to relinquish it. In 1794 he removed with his father to Oneida county in this State, having in 1785 married Lucy Williams, who belonged to an old and respected family in Roxbury, her mother descending from another old colonial family, the Winslows. Mr. Standart purchased wild land in New Hartford, where he continued farming until 1812, when he removed with his family to Auburn, Charles having in the meantime been born. Here he bought another farm, which some time after his death came into the possession of his son Charles. It was on a portion of this farm which the latter resided at the time of his death. The purchase included 160 acres in which is now a populous part of the city. George Standart and his wife were members of the Universalist church in its early days. To them were born 11 children, Charles being the sixth, and all were brought up in the faith of their father. All the children lived to maturity. Charles was the last surviving member of his family.

Charles Standart, as before stated, was born in the village of New Hartford. He was educated in the village school where a hundred pupils of both sexes and all ages were crowded together in one room, and taught by one teacher in a hap-hazard fashion. The war of 1812 broke out when Charles was 10 years old, and he recollected distinctly many incidents in that bitter struggle. His father was reluctantly pressed into service by the British to aid in the transportation of the troops from Utica to Buffalo, and Charles recollected the anxiety in the family during his absence. When the family removed to Auburn, Charles was 19 years of age, and was sent a few weeks ahead to live on a large farm of 300 acres bought by an uncle, Noah Olmstead, nearly 30 years before.

Two years later, in 1823, Charles went to that part of Northern Ohio now known as Erie county, where he was one of the first to engage in the

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produce and commission business along the great lakes. A wide field was open to an enterprising man, and Mr. Standart took advantage of every opportunity offered. In 1828, during the month of October, he bought the first lot of wheat ever forwarded to Buffalo from that locality. While in Ohio Mr. Standart was very prominent in business affairs, and became one of the best known and most popular men in that locality. It was then that he was in the prime of life, and his energy and business ability won him a fortune of no inconsiderable proportions. He was an associate judge in one of the courts of his county, and when in recent years he was visited by any of his old time acquaintances, he was addressed as Judge Standart.

Twelve years after the establishment of his commission business, he sold it out at a large profit in order to carry on farming in Huron township, where he already lived. After 13 years more he sold his land in Huron and returned to Auburn in 1850. During his residence in Ohio he had the care of some of the largest estates in Northern Ohio, and much of his time was devoted to the administration of them. Even after his return to this city, business journeys between his old home and his new one were of frequent occurrence. In 1898, however, he was largely relieved of business cares and settled down to a retired life. His mother died in 1853 and his father in 1855. Charles administered on the estate, paid off all the legacies and took possession of the homestead where he permanently established himself. Thirty years later in 1884 he built the handsome house which now adorns the upper part of North street.

Charles Standart was a man whose charitable acts were many and unostentatious. His means were large and he gave freely. He was particularly interested in the Cayuga Asylum for Destitute Children, and his watchful care of its interests and his financial support have been largely instrumental in making that institution what it is to-day. He was president of the Board of Trustees of the Asylum for 30 years and occupied that position at his death. The City hospital was another institution with which he was connected, being one of the Board of Trustees for a large number of years. Though not officially connected with any other charitable institution his charity was wide-spread. Those who knew him intimately say that no man gave of his means in a larger proportion than did he. Some years ago he donated a park to the city, situated in the Sixth ward, upon the condition that it be improved. The property was never improved and reverted back to the donor in the course of time. He was also vice president of the Cayuga County Savings Bank.

Mr. Standart was excise commissioner in 1875 and 1876, being appointed to this position by Hon. Theodore M. Pomeroy who was then mayor. His moral courage was here severely tried, but he was quite fearless in the discharge of his duties. He refused a lease to an applicant whom he thought

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unfit, and a short time afterward suffered the loss of his barns and contents. The incendiary was arrested, proved to have been the rejected applicant, and sent to State's prison for a long term of years.

In 1826 Mr. Standart married Ann M. Emmons of Ohio. The union was not blessed with children. The wife died in 1887, an adherent of the Presbyterian church in which she had been reared. Mr. Standart himself was a consistent member of the First Universalist church and a regular attendant, until health failed him, at that place of worship. He was the last of 11 children. His nephews and nieces are many. In this city he has two nieces living, Mrs. William H. Seward, Sr. and Mrs. Lucy W. Bostwick. The late Mrs. T.[Theodore] M. Pomeroy was also a niece. There resided with him at the time of his death Mrs. Lewis, a sister-in-law, Philo Adams, a nephew of his wife, and Mrs. Rodman, another relative.

The old gentleman persistently referred to the late Nelson Beardsley as a youth of tender years, notwithstanding the fact that he was but five years younger than Mr. Standart himself. It was his custom, on every succeeding anniversary of Mr. Beardsley's birth, to make his way to down to the Cayuga County National bank for the avowed purpose of seeing how the boy was getting along." The purpose of Mr. Standart's annual visits soon became a standing joke among Mr. Beardsley's friends and his arrival at the bank was always looked for on the latter's natal day.

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