

[Talcott, Percie Fuller]

MRS. PERCIE FULLER TALCOTT

Mrs. Percie Fuller Talcott, Adams Center's oldest resident, and one of the oldest residents of Jefferson county, died at her home in Adams Center, Wednesday morning, Dec. 3. She was 96 years, six months and 27 days old.

Mrs. Talcott was one of the pioneer residents of this section, where she had spent her entire life of nearly a century. She retained her full faculties almost until death and her interesting stories of life in days long past have been told and retold to her near friends and relatives until they seem certain to become an interesting part of the history of northern New York and particularly of Jefferson county.

Mrs. Percie Fuller Talcott was born on Dry Hill on April 16, 1828. She was the daughter of Austin and Eliza Bloss Fuller. The house in which she was born was built of logs. During her girlhood, however, the log house was replaced by a wooden frame house. In those days the material used for clothing was homespun and Mrs. Talcott spent much of her time at the spinning wheel making cotton, flax, woolen and linen which her mother would weave into cloth. Many of the homespun garments which were made by her mother so long ago she retained to be handed down to another generation.

The family shoes were not factory made but made by a shoemaker who resided in a house near the Talcott home.

The house was warmed by a large fireplace in which large logs, cut in four foot lengths, were burned. The bread and pies in the days Mrs. Talcott recalled were baked in brick ovens in back of the fireplace or in a tin oven by the fire. All cooking was done in iron kettles suspended by cranes over the fire and the iron teakettle was heated in the same manner.

Cook stoves were beginning to come into common use during her girlhood and her family had one in the house, but parlor stoves and heaters were unheard of. Their home was illuminated, as were all houses in those times, by home made tallow candles.

On Nov. 14, 1849, Mrs. Talcott was married to Nathan Talcott and they began housekeeping in the Talcott Stand, the stone house located about three miles from Adams Center on the main Adams Center-Watertown road. At the time she resided there, there was no railroad and the mail was brought by stage coach, the first trip of which Mrs. Talcott recalled vividly and often related.

Mr. and Mrs. Talcott often went to church by horseback, services being held in the school house which was not far from their home. The only vehicles then in use were double wagons in which they often rode in to Watertown, having to stop in upper Washington street to pay their toll. Watertown then was a village and a plank road extended to Sackets Harbor.

The days of the stagecoach passed, and in 1851 the railroad was built through here and soon carriages were in use. Mrs. Talcott vividly remembered when the first train passed up through northern New York. The tracks bordered

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the Talcott farm and persons from miles around came to watch what they regarded as an experiment.

After residing at the Talcott Stand for about ten years, Mr. and Mrs. Talcott removed to Adams Center, where they purchased a hotel which they conducted for a number of years. They later removed to a farm where they lived four years. During this time Mrs. Talcott's son, Fuller Talcott, was in the employ of A. M. Harris, who at that time conducted the largest hotel in Watertown, the Harris House. Later Mrs. Talcott and her son purchased the Adams Center hotel and again operated it for several years. They later purchased a home in Adams Center and in 1888 bought the present home in Adams Center, where Mrs. Talcott lived with her grandson, G. Talcott Parker, and her granddaughter, Mabel Parker, who has resided with her for a number of years.

Mrs. Talcott's husband died in 1888. Two children, Fuller A. and Sarah A., now dead, were born to them. The son died in 1904 and the daughter in 1892.

Two other grandchildren survive Mrs. Talcott. They are George F. Parker of Adams Center and Eugene H. of Woodville. Both are the sons of Newton M. Parker, who resides at Adams Center. There also survives one great-grandson, E. Clarke Parker, of Woodville.

Mrs. Talcott had a most active life. She catered many years to the public in the conduct of the hotel and always took a great interest in both local and national affairs. She was a Universalist in belief.

She watched with keen interest the progress in inventions during her life and enjoyed greatly her frequent rides in her grandson's automobile. She last went to Watertown by automobile about one year ago. After that time her health began to fail and she had not been out of her house for several months.

The funeral services were conducted from the late home on Friday afternoon, Dec. 5, at 2 o'clock. Burial was made in the family plot in Union cemetery, Adams Center.

Jefferson County Journal, Adams NY, Wed. 10 Dec 1924

Transcribed on 14 Feb 2010 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY