

[Thayer, Bezaleel]

Obituary

Died, at his home in Mexico, N.Y., on Tuesday, July 20th, Bezaleel Thayer, in the 80th year of his age.

Gen. Thayer was born in Hartwick, Otsego Co., Sep. 27, 1795. He settled in Mexico village in Jun 1819, and continued to reside in the place during the remainder of his long and active life. As manufacturer, farmer, contractor and builder, he has been widely known and respected, for his untiring industry and business capacity. Nearly 20 years since he retired from business pursuits; but a nature such as his could not be idle. A part of these years he devoted to the compilation of the Genealogy of the Thayer name, a work of such magnitude as to require a patience and perseverance such as ordinary men do not possess. But, in his hands, the work went on, and resulted in the completion of a volume of 700 pages that will be of interest and value to every one of his name and kindred.

A devoted student of the Bible, a conscientious thinker, seeking to find the causes and meanings of things, he became a believer in God as the Father of the entire race, in Christ as the brother and Savior of every human soul, and in the inseparable nature of holiness and true happiness, both in time and eternity; in short, he was a devoted Universalist from early manhood to the end of life. A trustee of the Universalist society in this village; one of the most active of the builders in the erection of the church, giving to it time, labor and money; a member and supporter of the organization, and a constant attendant on religious services; a friend indeed of both pastor and people, he will be sadly missed by them all.

He was strong in body, had a vigorous intellect, and an iron will; was in brief, a positive character, fitted for leadership in any undertaking in which he was interested. Something of reserve in his manner on first acquaintance, his plain and pointed, sometimes abrupt address, caused many to misunderstand him, and deem him cold and stern. But to those who waited to know the man, before passing judgment upon him, there was revealed the warm and tender affection of a large soul, genial in his friendships, loving and lovable in his home.

As a man and a Christian, he desired to be known for just what he was. He courted no one's favor, depended on no one's merits, wore no double face, let his likes and dislikes be known, and was always ready to defend and sustain that which he believed to be right. In the hurry of life such a man would gain warm friends and bitter enemies, but of this man it can truly be said that the friends predominate, and the enemies can never say that he was a coward or a knave. His tired body has gone to rest, his soul to another habitation and another blessed work. And the wife of had been his companion for 59 years, blessed by the same great faith, remains, waiting with her children in the assurance of reunion with him in another home.

*Mexico Independent*, Mexico NY, Thu. 29 Jul 1875