

[Utley, Roxy Wood]

Obituary [somewhat abridged].

Mr. Orin Utley and Roxy Wood, his wife, completed life's mortal journey the 10th and 21st inst., respectively, at the advanced ages of 80 and 83 years.

Mr. Utley was a native of Conn., she of this State. He came to Homer with his parents when but seven years of age and settled at East River, where he continued to live until called to his reward.

She came from Herkimer county to this county at the age of 14 years.

They were brought into association when quite young, attending district school together, in Truxton at or near the spot where the Pelham School House now stands, to reach which, they had to go a distance of four miles.

She [?] me that while at school they spent some of the happiest days of their life, the remembrances of which renewed her age.

Sometime in 1833 he, making a purchase of his father of nine acres of land, upon which a distillery had been previously built, commenced business for himself, to which he gave his entire attention until his father's death, which occurred August 1825. Then purchasing of the heirs the remaining portion of the farm he engaged himself in farming. By industry and the practice of the most rigid economy he amassed quite a fortune.

Prior to their marriage, which occurred in 1825, Mrs. Utley was engaged in teaching school, in which profession she gained a credible reputation. She was well qualified to take the position of wife and mother, a position she filled with honor and becoming dignity. Possessed of a strong mind, a warm and sympathizing heart and a genial nature she exercised a controlling influence, and won the esteem of all with whom she was brought into association. Her devotion to home interests and her industry were proverbial, in this it was hard to tell which of the two excelled....

He was honest, industrious, and a good citizen. He never refused to lend money with ample security, he never distressed the poor, and was never a "busybody in other men's matters," hence his financial success, hence his worth. In religion he was an Universalist in creed, of primitive type. He held tenaciously the vicarious atonement and a change of heart as important. At the age of 18 years of age he gave some attention to his soul's interest and for him his friends entertained a hope.

Mrs. Utley experienced a change of heart at the age of 18 years and sustained the character of a true Christian for 65 years. Her recital to me, some months before her death, of her religious experience, satisfied me that she had found the "Lord gracious." Subsequent interviews but confirmed my convictions.

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In truth it may be said of them as of Saul and Jonathan, "They were pleasant in their lives and in their death they were not divided," as he preceded her but eleven days and 26 minutes. At the time appointed for his funeral services she was so low it was thought best to defer the sermon indefinitely.

Their funeral services were attended by Rev. Mr. Westgate, of Cortland, on the 22d day of December 1878, who pronounced an able and impressive discourse over the remains. Excellent music was furnished for the occasion by the Amphion Quartette club of Cortland, N.Y.

A. B. Utley, their only son and heir has the gratitude of all the friends for his untiring devotion to the welfare and comfort of his aged father and mother. All that could be done for their relief and comfort was cheerfully and readily performed. We shall long remember the last scene of devotion, when mother and son with clasped hands, united with their physician, for the blessing offered upon her son. May her counsel be ever heeded, and their prayer answered.

S.H.

East Homer, N.Y., Dec, 28, 1879

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