

[Watson, Henry Hill]

FORMER OSWEGO MAN, 102, DEAD

Centenarian Expires, Leaves Six Children

Henry Hill Watson, Resident of Oswego Many Years,
Dies at Daughter's Home in Oregon—Was Universalist Preacher

OSWEGO, Dec. 27—The body of Henry Hill Watson, 102, a resident of this city until last spring, whose death occurred at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Frank C. Johnson, at Astoria, Ore., on Christmas Eve, will be brought here for burial. His son-in-law, R. R. Fender, of No. (??1) Edwards street, received word of Mr. Watson's death and is awaiting details. It is not known when the body will arrive.

Mr. Watson resided with his son-in-law until July (4?), when he went to Astoria to live with his daughter. Before leaving Mr. Watson made arrangements for his funeral and burial with his personal friend, John F. (?), a local undertaker, in the event of his death while in the West.

Mr. Watson was born in Great Barrington, Mass., April 27, 1815. When an infant his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Eleazer Hatch, early settlers in Massachusetts, moved to New York and settled at Union Square, now in the town of Mexico. They brought Mr. Watson with them and there he grew up in a log cabin, which for many years was the family home.

As a boy he was industrious and eager to learn, and gained what knowledge he could by reading the few books he was able to obtain. His first trip to Oswego was on July 4, (18??), when he rode here on horseback. He witnessed the Independence Day celebration and returned to his home the following day.

In 1844 Mr. Watson went to Racine, Wis., where he remained six years. Prior to leaving Union Square he became a preacher of the Universalist faith and during the greater part of his stay in the West served as pastor of the Universalist church at Racine.

In 1850 he returned to Oswego and resided here continuously until last spring. For many years he was one of the most active members of the Universalist society in this city.

Mr. Watson was a carpenter and cooper and followed those occupations through his active years. He had lived a retired life for the past twenty years. An uncle, Isaac Patch, in 1833 was proprietor of the Onondaga House in Syracuse. His uncle also conducted the Union Square House, Union Square, and a hotel at Williamstown.

Mr. Watson leaves six children: three sons, Theodore Watson, Watertown; George Watson, Marshall, Mich.; and Charles Watson, Hartford, Conn.; three daughters, Mrs. J. W. Spahr and Miss Alice Watson, Colorado Springs, Col., and Mrs. Johnson of Astoria.

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