

[Wheeler, Elijah]

Another of the venerable and worthy citizens of this country has gone to his final rest. Elijah Wheeler, Esquire, of Aurelius died last week in the eighty-first year of his age.

Mr. Wheeler was the eldest son of the late Capt. Edward Wheeler, and was born in Washington County in the year 1785. He came to Cayuga County with his father and family in 1790, and settled on Lot No. 79, in the old township of Aurelius, where he resided until within a few years since, when he removed to a farm near Clarkville. His father died in 1839, at the age of 86. His only surviving brother—Aurelius Wheeler, Esq., was the first male child born in that town, and bears its name upon that account.

Mr. Wheeler was a man of marked character in every respect. His integrity and general uprightness of purpose were proverbial. And his firmness in adhering to his opinions was quite as remarkable. He was an honest, frank, benevolent, truthful citizen, whose word was as good as his bond. He was universally respected by all who knew him.

He was for eight years a magistrate in his town, but never tried a cause. Feeling that he could serve the public better to act as peace-maker than to settle the controversies of his neighbors by formal trials, he uniformly succeeded, when appealed to for process, in bringing parties together and effecting a settlement without cost to either of them. He was Supervisor of Fleming for two or three years, and discharged the duties of that office with excellent judgment and fidelity. In 1842-3 he was associated with Michael S. Myers, Stephen A. Goodwin, Milton H. Noble and Samuel Brown, as Inspector of the Auburn Prison. His religious associations were with the Universalists.

In size Mr. Wheeler was upwards of six feet high, and otherwise large and strong. And until the occurrence of yesterday, which terminated his life, there were few, if any, men of his age in this region, who retained such vigor of mind and body. He attended to his daily business with the energy and cheerfulness apparently of youth. Whilst overseeing the excavation of gravel near Macomber's for repairing the plank-road, he was obliged to suddenly step backward to avoid an approaching team of horses, and accidentally fell upon some boulders, causing a concussion of his brain and instant death.

His funeral was attended by Rev. R.[Richmond] Fisk of Auburn.

*Christian Ambassador*, New York, NY, Sat. 15 Oct 1865

[paper is misdated 14 Oct]