

[Wheeler, Erastus D.]

Deaths.

Suddenly, in Hamilton, Madison Co., N.Y., on the 8th ult., ERASTUS D. WHEELER, Esq., about 68 years. Mr. Wheeler was probably the oldest man of our village. Born in New Canaan, Conn., Nov. 28, 1795, he came with his parents to this village when eighteen months old. At the death of his father, which occurred when the subject of this notice was ten years old, he returned to New Canaan, where he resided until his seventeenth year, when he removed to Hamilton, learned his trade—that of cabinet maker—of Mr. Higgins, father of Mrs. T. H. Greenley, and has always since resided here. Mr. W. purchased the ground on which his house now stands in 1817, and we believe, since that time has always lived on the same premises. Few men have enjoyed the confidence of an entire community more than he, and few men have been more honored with offices of trust; and he proved by his fitness in the offices of President of the village, Trustee, Canal Collector, etc., that the confidence of his fellow citizens was not misplaced. He was beloved, not only by his immediate family circle, (where his loss will be irreparable,) but also by the large circle of friends that are left to mourn his sudden death, all of whom can attest to his many virtues, his sterling integrity of character, and to his daily Christian walk and example. His aged mother is left to mourn his loss. May God comfort her in this hour of affliction. The death of Mr. Wheeler leaves a void that cannot be filled. Society has lost a bright and shining ornament, and his home circle one whose memory will be cherished as one of its dearest idols. The funeral took place at the late residence of the deceased, on Tuesday afternoon, Rev. Mr. Brooks conducting the exercises, which were peculiarly solemn and impressive. As a tribute to the memory of the deceased, the stores and business places were all closed. As is well known, Mr. Wheeler has had complete charge of the undertaking department of Parker & Gardiner's establishment, and conducted nearly all the funerals in this vicinity for nearly forty years. His horse, appropriately draped in mourning, and his vacant place upon the hearse (still unfilled) was an eloquent memento to the loss the community has sustained. The body of the deceased was accompanied to the grave by a large number of relatives and friends, and now in our little village cemetery, which he has rendered beautiful, he sleeps his last sleep.

Christian Ambassador, Auburn NY, Sat. 12 Sep 1863
[a Universalist newspaper]