

[Wheeler, Sylvester]

Bristol, N. Y.—Another one of the old residents has passed away. The death of Sylvester Wheeler occurred at his home Wednesday evening, Jan. 23. He had been in poor health for several years past, though his death at last was quite unexpected. Mr. Wheeler was born in Livonia, Jan. 18, 1829, and was educated at Canandaigua academy. At the age of 16 he taught school, and at 21 he engaged in the mercantile business in Bristol. Several years later he went to South Bloomfield and purchased the grist mill now owned by David Cooper. After three years he went to Texas, where he remained three years and assisted in establishing the Butterfield overland mail route, a long and perilous ride through a country that was infested with treacherous and unfriendly Indians. Mr. Wheeler had many thrilling tales to relate of his stage coach life. His experience with the Indians was oftentimes of the most thrilling character. At that period they were more or less in open warfare with the white settlers and many times on the hazardous journeys, he only escaped with his life. One upon one of his trips, he encountered a company of red men fighting in the highway, impeding his passage. Knowing that in all probability they would not molest the U. S. mail and fearless of stray shots, he drove right through the thickest of the fight, coming out safe and sound on the other side. Owing to the breaking out of the civil war and Mr. Wheeler's strong union sentiments, he realized that the south was no place for him, and he returned to Bristol, but not until the stage had made its last journey. After Mr. Wheeler left, there was no one brave enough to endanger their lives on the route, and it was dropped. From 1870 to 1889, Mr. Wheeler again engaged in the mercantile business in Bristol. He was a life-long Republican. He was superintendent of schools for a term of two years and represented the town as supervisor for four years. Since 1889, he had engaged in farming.

He was twice married; first Oct. 15, 1848, to Mary P. Cudworth, daughter of Ezekial Cudworth of Bristol. They had seven children: Isabella, who died when a little girl [in 1858]; Roswell, now of Utah; Mrs. Wm. H. Doyle of Bristol; Wallace of Utah, for several years engaged in cattle and horse raising, but now possessing staked claims in the Klondike, near Dawson, mining and running a road house; and Arthur, also with his brother in the Klondike. Mrs. Wheeler died Dec. 19, 1870. Mr. Wheeler afterward married Miss Lavina Cleveland of Naples. Of the last marriage there are four children, Harold, Mabel, now Mrs. DeMerrill Ingraham, Roland and Leslie, all of Bristol. The funeral was held from his home Saturday afternoon, Rev. F. F. Buckner of the Universalist Church, of which he had always been a supporter, officiating.

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