

[Williams, Aretus P.]

OBITUARY.

Aretus P. Williams, one of Oswego's oldest and most respected citizens, died at his home, corner East Fourth and Seneca streets, yesterday morning, after a brief illness.

The deceased was born in Brookfield, Madison county, February 22d, 1811, and came to this city in 1836. He lived here continuously since then, and was before his death, in all probability, the oldest citizen, with a record of sixty-three years. He was a builder and erected many buildings about town, among them his late home, which has survived both of Oswego's great fires. Though a staunch Republican for many years, Mr. Williams always subscribed for the PALLADIUM.

Last Winter he had a severe attack of the grip which left him in a weakened condition. However, he did not take to his bed until last Monday evening. He passed peacefully away Sunday morning. The deceased was a pioneer Universalist, having been one of the workers to establish the church which at one time occupied a site in the West Park. He had believed in Universalism for forty years, before that being a Baptist.

He is survived by his wife [Martha] and one sister, Mrs. Philena Darling, of Cazenovia. Also by five children, three sons and two daughters. The sons are: Harry Williams, of Cortland; George, of Cazenovia, and Alvin, of Ames, Ia. Mrs. Lena Milo, of this city, and Mrs. Louisa Towsley, wife of the Rev. Irving Towsley, of Wisconsin, formerly pastor of the Church of Our Father [Universalist], this city, are the surviving daughters. Mrs. Towsley is at present living at the home of her late father. Twelve grandchildren are also survivors.

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Transcribed on 14 Sep 2013 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY