

[Munson, Edmund]

Edmund Munson

EDMUND MUNSON, Esq., an old and respected citizen of Utica, died at his residence on Devereux street last night, in the sixty-seventh year of his age.

Thirty-five years ago Mr. Munson came from Litchfield county, Connecticut, his birth place. It was his original design to make his home in Illinois, but finding here a business opening, in the establishment of his uncle, the late Alfred Munson, he decided to remain. Both his uncle and his father had been engaged in the milling business, and to this branch Mr. Edmund Munson devoted his useful life. He came here well qualified for the business. The establishment of his uncle was the oldest manufactory of French burr-stones in the United States. Under the superintendence of the subject of this sketch, the business grew and prospered.

In 1842 Mr. Munson removed to Brownville, Jefferson county, where he erected a flouring mill which was considered at that time one of the best mills in the State. In 1847 he returned to Utica and formed a partnership with Mr. A. C. Hart, under the firm name of Hart & Munson. This firm gained a high and honorable reputation, not only here but in other cities and States. It introduced many new and valuable improvements in the manufacture of machinery appertaining to the furnishing and complete equipment of a modern mill.

The numerous patents granted to Mrs. Munson bear testimony to his inventive genius. The most important of these patents was obtained in 1860 and is for a portable mill, which is reported to be one of the best and most valuable inventions brought out for the milling public.

In 1869 the firm of Hart & Munson was dissolved, and Mr. Munson associated in business with himself his three sons, who are called upon now to mourn the loss of a wise counselor, a safe guide, a loving father.

The reputation of no man in Utica was fairer than that of Edmund Munson. He worked hard all his life; he strove steadily to excel in the business which he had chosen, and though he accumulated no great share of this world's goods, he left a better heritage than wealth in the record of an honorable career.

Mr. Munson was an earnest believer in the faith of the Universalist Church, and a constant attendant upon its public services. He died surrounded by his family and friends, sustained in the last hours of his illness by the belief that he should [would] meet them all in the Silent Land which lies beyond the Valley of the Shadow of Death.

Mr. Munson's wife [Sarah Gardinier Munson] and a family of five children—three sons [Edmund L., Alfred H. and Countcil] and two daughters—survive him. To them the sympathy of the whole community will be extended in this hour of their greatest affliction.

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