

[Phillips, Zebulon]

DEATH OF A VENERABLE PIONEER

Z.[Zebulon] Phillips, a pioneer of the County of Monroe, N.Y., died at his residence in Churchville, January 7, aged 88 years. Mr. Phillips was born in the town of Dighton, Mass. in 1795, and was the youngest of the family of eight children who emigrated, when he was seven years old, with widowed mother, to the town of Bristol, Ontario county, N.Y., by means of a wagon and ox team and was twenty-seven days in making the journey. In his younger days he says he did some hunting in the wild woods of the new country, and the first money that he ever earned and became possessed of as his own was done by snatching chipmunks and red squirrels that were very destructive to the corn of the pioneer, at a cent a head, until he had earned one hundred cents. And this dollar, he spent for a sheep, and from this sheep he raised others, letting them to farmers, whereon he received sheep to half of the amount of the increase every three years until he became the possessor of seventy sheep. At the age of sixteen he commenced to work for neighboring farmers and continued at it for seven years and the highest price he ever received for this work was \$12 a month. The winters he spent in chopping wood, or threshing wheat with a \_ail and as pay for doing the latter he received every eleventh bushel threshed. In 1818 he brought a farm in Chili, N.Y. paying for it twelve dollars an acre, cleared it of the wood and lived on it about thirty years. He then bought a farm in the town of Riga, N.Y., and after living on it a number of years, on account of age and infirmities in 1876 he disposed of his lands, retired with abundant means for his comfort, purchased a house in Churchville, N.Y., and resided in that village until his death.

He had been four times married, namely; to Sophia Seribaer, Martha Ann Hadley, Rebecca Kingsley, and last Mrs. Eunice Tullar, the latter he survived about two and a half years. He was the father of nine children, many of whom are living in the Western States.

Mr. Phillips was one of the very early pioneers in Western New York, and had passed through all the trials, vexations and privations of the early settler, and had the satisfaction of seeing the wild woods changed to fruitful fields and the home and war-whoop of the savage changed to the home of civilization and peace. Very few of these adventurers are left to tell the story of the hardships they had to endure to make this wilderness, as it does, to bloom as the rose. In politics he was an old school Democrat, having never failed from the time he was old enough to vote cast it for the Democratic nominee, and the last one was for Gen. W. S. Hancock. He was a man much respected in the community in which he ever lived, and was noted for the honesty of his dealings and obligingness to his neighbors, kindness to the destitute, and sympathy with the sick and afflicted, as well as for the frugality of his habits and the modesty of his life. In religious faith he was a Universalist, and had long been one of the supporters of that church in Churchville.

*Dan LeLion*

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