

Obituary.

The late James O'Hara, Sr., died at his residence, lot No. 4, fifth concession, west half, Madoc township, Friday, September 15, 1882. He was born at Manchester, Bennington County, Vermont, September, 14, 1797, and lived to the ripe age of 85 years and one day. He was united in marriage December 13th, 1818, to Miss Mary Healey, in the town of Leaky, Jefferson County, N. Y. This christian woman, amiable, beloved, ever swift on errands of mercy and full of good deeds, after 45 years of happy married life, passed away to her eternal home April 2nd, 1863. They had in all 11 children, seven of whom are now living and are well to do and highly esteemed members of the community wherein they reside. Father O'Hara moved to the township of Madoc in the year 1821, and at the time of his death was the oldest resident of the township. His was the fifth family of the first original families that settled in the township. The four families that preceded him were David Zerain, Thomas Declare, Samuel Gregory and Jas. Ferguson. James, the eldest son, was born May 4, 1826, consequently he is the oldest now living in Madoc, born in Madoc township. For the last thirty years the deceased was an intelligent and faithful member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, filling during that period the responsible offices of Steward, Classleader, and Trustee. His home was ever open to ministers of the gospel of every denomination, and for years was the only preaching place in the township. The first minister that came and preached at his residence was a Baptist by the name of Isaac Reed. The name of the first Methodist minister was Atwood. The hardships he endured as one of the early pioneers of the country were such as can only be faintly conjectured by the young people of to-day. The peculiar difficulties, the formidable hindrances, and patient labours of the dear old men — early pioneers — rapidly passing away, will never practically be known to the rising generation.

The vexations he endured in the Rebellion of 1837 were many. Though peaceable, loyal to the crown, and never anything worthy of accusation against him, yet he was confined several months in Kingston jail. In those troublesome times there were parties ready to seize any excuse to create trouble among their neighbours, the most innocent, as in the case of Mr. O'Hara, were subjects of the most petty and unjust persecutions.

The deceased ever felt a deep interest and took an active part in all the enterprises pertaining to the material improvement, as well as the intellectual, moral and religious education of the community. In early days the Indians loved him, and many are the romantic and exciting incidents that could be told of their warm attachments to his person. Blessed is his memory! He lived not in vain! He was buried September 17th, and on the following Sunday morning, 24th, in the M. E. Church, Madoc village, an appropriate funeral sermon was preached by Rev. B. E. Sutton.

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