

ISCHUA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

WHO'S WHO IN ISCHUA VALLEY -- RENSSALAER CURTIS

On July 6th, 1899 another one of Franklinville's old and highly respected citizens passed away. [Renssalaer Curtis](#) was born here at the site of the present Methodist Church on February 9th, 1818. He was the first white child born in the village. He was the son of [Solomon Curtis](#) who came here with [General McCluer](#) what afterwards became Franklinville. He had 3 brothers and a sister.

When quite young he traveled to St. Louis, Missouri up to the Great Lakes looking for a place to relocate. He chose Wisconsin and returned home to marry [Ruth Foster](#) on February 9, 1848. There were 3 children born to this union but only a son Henry, a prominent attorney from Franklinville, survived.

The family settled in Wisconsin but returned 2 years later because of his wife's failing health. They removed to Machias at a place called Beaver Meadows. This is where Henry was born. They later moved to the Klein farm in Ischua and then to a farm in Sugartown in 1863. They remained there until November 1898 when they came back to Franklinville to make their home with their son. Mr. Curtis managed his farm and until he was taken ill two weeks ago had never had a sick day. Only once had he ever seen a physician before this and that was for a dislocated shoulder.

Early in life he became a Christian and delighted in teaching Sunday School classes and holding the office of superintendent. He was a good citizen and noted for his integrity and sympathy.

When he was born this place was a wilderness and a wolf pelt brought in a bounty of \$20 from the Board of Supervisors. As a young man he worked near Buffalo and in company with other men, walked during the night 20 miles to see the first steam boat start on Lake Erie. Mr. Curtis saw Chicago when it was a small town. He has seen Franklinville grow from a hamlet of two or three log huts to one of the most beautiful villages in the state. He has watched with interest the progress in educational advantages that the youth of Franklinville have. Born as he was at a time when an education was almost impossible to get he knew full well the worth of one. He has always been an honorable and respected citizen. The funeral will be held Saturday morning at 11:00 from the Methodist Church. [Reverend G. W. Varnum](#) will be officiating.