

RESPECTED CITIZEN OF MONTPELIER

Joel Foster Had Been Prominent

IN MONTPELIER AFFAIRS FOR YEARS.

Public Spirited Citizen and Served in Many Capacities.

Work of His Life Extended Over More than Half a Century and Included Matters of Importance.

Joel Foster, the father of the Montpelier water works system, died about midnight last night at his home on School street. Mr. Foster's death was due to asthma, from which



he has been a sufferer for years. For the past few years he has been growing worse while for a year he had had spells at various times. For several months he has been steadily failing and although he has been able to visit the office for a few minutes his condition was not such that he could do much work. He endeavored to make out his last report a week or two ago, but his strength was gone, and the task had to be finished by P. S. Smith, who has been city engineer.

The Montpelier water works were the best monument that could be erected to the memory of Mr. Foster, and it is lived to see the system, started nearly twenty years ago, entirely free from debt. The system was his get, and he knew every inch of pipe from the intake to the top of Clay hill. It was his pride day in and day out, and he guarded it with the care of a mother for her child. Mr. Foster's work and labor is appreciated throughout the city and had he lived to be a hundred years old it was the general opinion that he would still be superintendent of the department.

The funeral is to be held at 2 o'clock Saturday afternoon, Rev. J. Edward Wright officiating. Mr. Foster's two sons, who are residing in the far west, are not expected to be here, but Mrs. Estabrook, his niece, of New York, will be present.

Mr. Foster was a native of Walpole, where he was born June 27, 1825. He delighted in recent years in declaring that he could remember events that transpired 70 years ago or more, as attesting the unusual quality of his memory. He passed the early years of his boyhood on the farm of Roderick Richardson, in Walpole and afterward entered Mr. Richardson's store. While he was deprived of educational advantages the natural bent of his mind led him to study by himself and he made such progress that before many years his services were in demand as teacher in the towns of the vicinity.

He came to Montpelier in 1850 and became a clerk in the store of Hyde & Marston, hardware dealers. Marston withdrew from the firm not long afterward. Mr. Hyde conducted the business alone for two years. When Mr. Foster wanted to leave, to secure a better field for the exercise of his abilities, Mr. Hyde, to retain his services, made him a partner. The new firm of Hyde & Foster did a