

From the Eccentric. 1883

Aug 21 "Uncle John" Waters.

This old pioneer and esteemed citizen of Southfield was killed Aug. 6, 1883, by being thrown from his buggy.

The deceased was born in Chatlam, Columbia county, New York, July 5, 1807, and had reached the ripe age of 76 years 1 month and 2 days. He was the second son and next to the eldest child of the Rev. John and Wealthy Waters, his father being a Presbyterian minister well and favorably known throughout large portions of the States of New York and Illinois. Of the large family of fifteen children twelve lived to manhood and womanhood, honored and respected wherever they were known.

Being of a restless disposition and impatient with the restraint of his quiet home, he ran away at the age of sixteen and entered the U. S. navy as a cabin boy on board the man-of-war "Constitution," where he remained five years and three months, visiting the various parts of the world especially the West Indies and along the shores of the Mediterranean, yet seldom allowed to step on shore. He always looked back to this period of his life with regret, feeling its evil influence upon all his after life.

Discharged from the service July 5, 1828, the same day that he entered upon his majority, he soon after returned to his paternal home where he remained some length of time and then left for the "wilds of Michigan" reaching Detroit in 1829. Here he apprenticed himself as a blacksmith, serving three years. During some of this time he worked upon the engine and machinery of the old steamer Michigan—the first steamboat on the upper lakes. In 1830 he purchased from Joseph Dodd the farm on which he lived almost continuously until his death.

With money earned at his trade and by working over hours, he was able to make payments and some improvements upon his farm. The grain barn now in use, was built in 1833 almost entirely with money earned by extra work at his trade. In the fall of 1833 he returned to his friends in Oneida county, N.

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