

DEATH OF THOMAS BROWN.

From Monday's Daily.

The death of Mr. Thomas Brown, which occurred at his residence, Mill street, on Sunday morning at five o'clock removes one of the early pioneers of Ingersoll. He has been in failing health for some time past but was only confined to his bed for one week, death being due to obstruction of the bowels. The late Thomas Brown has been closely identified with the interests of Ingersoll from its earliest history, and has occupied perhaps every position of public trust within the gift of his fellow citizens. He has been honored and respected as a thoroughly honorable and upright man in all his dealings whether in a public or private capacity. He had exceeded the allotted span of life by well nigh twenty years and in a few weeks would have passed the 90th anniversary of his birth.

(From Tuesday's Daily.)

THOMAS BROWN.

The late Thos. Brown, whose death was recorded in THE CHRONICLE on Monday, was one of the few remaining pioneers of the town of Ingersoll, who cast in his lot here when the place was little more than a clearing in the forest, and who has watched it develop into one of the most progressive towns in Canada. He was born in the town of Seekonk, Bristol County, Massachusetts, Dec. 11th 1810, being the youngest son of Oliver and Esther Brown. He received a district school education, farmed till seventeen years of age, then went to Tioga County, N. Y., and learned the trade of carpenter and cooper. In February 1857, he left the United States and came to Canada, settling first in London, where he worked a few months at his trade. In November of the same year he came to Ingersoll and purchased a tannery from Wm. Sherman, which he has successfully conducted since that date. It will be seen that he has been a resident of Ingersoll for almost sixty-six years, during which time he has contributed in no small degree to the success and development of the town. He was a live and stirring man, inclined to push business, public as well as private, and was a believer in human progress. The stone and gravel roads leading into Ingersoll were among his early pet measures, his sound judgment convinced him that if the town was to prosper facilities for outside communication must be provided. He was president of the Ingersoll and Port Huron Road Co., and the Ingersoll and Northern Road Co., and was a director of the Derham and Ingersoll Road Co. He was one of the promoters of the Ingersoll Rural Cemetery Co., and was its president for a number of years, occupying that position at the time of his death. He was a director in the old Credit Valley Railway Company, and a promoter and director of the Tilsonburg and Ingersoll Railway in 1874, but which project was abandoned owing to the construction of the Credit Valley Railway (now the C. P. R.)

The late Thomas Brown also took an active part in public affairs and occupied the highest positions within the gift of the people. The records of the town show that in 1854 he was the reeve of the town, and a member of the county council from 1850 to 1866 inclusive, he was councillor from 1872 to 1873 inclusive, he was the reeve and from 1880 to 1883 inclusive he occupied the Mayor's chair. In the meantime he conducted the old Ingersoll foundry for some years when he sold it to John Russell. He was prominently identified with the Ingersoll Agricultural Society from its organization, being for many years a director and serving as president for a lengthened period.

For every church built in Ingersoll he had a full and open hand. He has helped many a young man to start in business, and has in some cases, through kindness, lifted at the wheel for others to the serious detriment of his own shoulders, always being disposed to help those who were trying to help themselves.

The late Mr. Brown was here during the troublous times of 1837, but being at that time an alien, he took no active part in the rebellion. His father enlisted in the American Army when a mere boy and served for some years in the war for Independence, taking part in the battle of Bunker Hill. In 1855 the name of Thomas Brown was proposed as the Liberal representative for South Oxford in the Legislative Assembly, but holding an independent view of politics he declined the honor.

In October 1833 the subject of this sketch was married to Miss Pauline M. Kingsbury, of Oswego, N. Y., and of nine children springing from the union only two are living—Mrs. (Dr.) Hoyt, and George K. Brown. There is also an adopted daughter, Miss May Brown. Mrs. Brown died in 1890. For many years the late Thomas Brown was a member of St. James' church, during which time he has held various official positions. On Sunday the reading desk, lectern, pulpit and altar were draped in mourning out of respect to his memory. His familiar form will be missed on our streets, and in his death the town of Ingersoll suffers a distinct loss. His remains will be deposited in their last long resting place on Wednesday afternoon at 3 o'clock, service being held at St. James' church.

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BIOGRAPHY OF THOMAS BROWN

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Among the early settlers and energetic, persevering business men of Ingersoll, is Thomas Brown, who has here been a leather manufacturer for nearly forty-seven years. He hails from the old Bay State which, New York perhaps excepted, has sent out more enterprising mechanics, manufacturers, tradesmen and professional men, than any other commonwealth in the great American Union. He was born in the town of Seekonk, Bristol county, December 11, 1810, being the son of Oliver Brown, who was born in the same town, and who, enlisting when a mere lad, served for five years in the war for independence.

Thomas received a district school education, farmed till seventeen, then went to Tioga county, N.Y., and learned the trade of a tanner and currier; in February, 1833, left the United States for Canada, worked a few months at his trade in London, and in November of the same year settled in Ingersoll. Here he purchased a tannery of William Sherman, and has managed it steadily from that date. Since the spring of 1872 his only son living, George K. Brown, has been his partner, the firm name being Thomas Brown and Son. They do a large business in the leather and finding trade.

Since April 1876, Mr. Brown has also been in the foundry business, and at different times he has had a hand in other branches of industry. He has an active mind and a strong body a powerful engine in sound frame work, and seemingly, although in his seventieth year, possesses almost the elasticity of thirty-five.



Mr. Brown was reeve of Ingersoll, and in the county council in 1853 and 1854, and from 1872 to 1879, and warden in 1876; has been a member of the local Agricultural Society from the date of its organization, and a director most of the time, and president three or four years. He is a live, stirring man, inclined to push business, public as well as his own, and is a believer in human progress. The stone and gravel roads leading into Ingersoll were among his early pet measures for the building up of the town. For every church built in Ingersoll, he had a full and open hand. He has helped many a young man to start in business, and has in some cases, through kindness, lifted at the wheel for others, to the serious detriment of his own shoulders, always being disposed to help those who were trying to help themselves.

In October, 1833, Miss Pauline M. Kingsbury, of Owego, N. Y., became the wife of Mr. Brown, and of nine children springing from this union, only two are living Clarissa C., the wife of Dr. Hoyt, sketched elsewhere in this volume, and the son already mentioned.

SURNAMES:

[Brown,](#)

TOPICS:

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LOCATIONS:

[Ontario Canada,](#)

COLLECTION:

[The Canadian Biographical Dictionary and Portrait Gallery of Eminent and Self Made Men, Ontario, Volume 1.](#)
Toronto: Toronto American Biographical Pub. Co. 1880.

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