

BAXTER GILLETTE

From the Fenton Independent we learn of the death of Baxter Gillett, one of the old pioneers of Oakland County and Rochester. For many years he owned the Rochester flouring mills now the property of Barkham and son, occupying the house on North Walnut Street now owned by Postmaster Hayes. He sold this property here in 1875 to Cook and Kirby and removed to Fenton. We copy the Independent's obituary of a good and upright man and excellent citizen and to whom we are indebted for this fine portrait of the deceased; Baxter Gillett, who had been a resident of Fenton for the past 30 years and of Michigan for nearly 70 years, died at his home on Main Street, the 21st Inst, in the 87th year of his age, after having been nearly helpless for several years. The funeral was held from the late residence Monday afternoon, conducted by Rev. A. J. Funnell. Mr. Gillett was born in New York in 1810, and at the age of seventeen he came to Michigan, driving through Canada, reaching Detroit and from there coming on to Troy in Oakland County. He was married in 1850, and after spending several years on the farm he went to Rochester, where he entered the milling business. Selling this business he came to Fenton and bought a farm just north of the village on the Flint Road. Here he lived until about ten years ago, when he purchased the Mason farm in the eastern part of the village, on the Holly Road and resided here at the time of his death. He is survived by one son, Ross, and for several years of helplessness – being both blind and deaf – he has been tenderly cared for by his daughter-in-law, Mrs. Lizzie Gillett. The remains were taken to Birmingham for interment.

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