

## ROGER SPRAGUE

Died, at his late residence in South Avon, Friday, Feb. 20, 1891 of general debility, superinduced by old age, Roger Sprague Jr. aged 87 years.

Mr. Sprague was born in Bloomfield, Ontario Co., NY, September 4, 1804. With his father, Judge Roger Sprague, he came to Michigan in 1821. It is said that the Judge was the first man to drive a team into this section of the country. At that time Oakland tp. comprised a large area of territory, out of which several townships have since been formed. Among these was the present township of Avon, of which Judge Roger Sprague was the 1<sup>st</sup> supervisor. He also took part, at Detroit, in the enactment of territorial laws for the now State of Michigan.

During the year 1827 Roger, Jr., then 23 years of age, voted at the first township meeting held in Avon. This was also the first time he had ever voted at any election.

He was married Dec, 27, 1836 to Miss Liddle Potter who bore him four children – one son and three daughters, the son and two daughters still living, who with his widow mourn the loss of an affectionate father and a true-hearted husband.

The death of Mr. Sprague closes the list of the early pioneers who first voted in this township.

Mr. Sprague was a man of more than ordinary intelligence, strong in his convictions of what constituted right and wrong, and a man whose word was as good as a bond. Upright in his dealings with his fellowman, he was a typical citizen and a man whose loss may be considered irreparable to the community in which he lived so many long years.

It is not often the lot of a wedded couple to live together uninterrupted and happily for 55 years, yet this privilege was accorded Mr. And Mrs. Sprague. Together they walked hand-in-hand all these years, and together shared the toils and hardships of pioneer life, and while he is like ripened corn, was gathered to his fathers, she is

‘only waiting till the shadows  
Are a little longer grown.’

To join him on the other side.

The funeral services were held at the house Sunday, the 22<sup>nd</sup>, Inst., Rev. P. Schermerhorn officiating and the remains interred in Stony Creek Cemetery. A large concourse of friends and neighbors followed his remains to the grave.

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