

Matthias J. Bovee

24 Jul 1793 - 12 Sep 1872

Oak Ridge cemetery on the west side of the village of Eagle, was on the first of May made the last resting place of Hon. Matthias J. Bovee, and his wife, Elizabeth M. Bovee, William R. Bovee and a son and his wife, Sarah A. Bovee, and a daughter, Ella Bovee. Their bodies were first buried in the Eagle town cemetery. A monument of light Vermont granite has been erected in the family lot containing the family name in raised letters. The monument stands on a base three times eight feet in dimensions and is four feet and eight inches high.

By mere accident and without forethought, the removal of the bodies occurred on the anniversary of the marriage of Wm. R. and Sarah A. Bovee.

It will no doubt interest our readers to read a brief biography of these members of the Bovee family, many of whom will personally remember them. Matthias J. Bovee was born in Amsterdam, N. Y., July 24, 1793. At the age of fourteen the care of a widowed mother and children devolved upon him. He taught school in winter and worked the farm in summer. At twenty-two he became a merchant; at thirty-two he was elected a member of the New York assembly, having previously held the office of chairman of the town and also county board of supervisors. He voted for the first railroad charter in the U. S., authorizing the construction of the Albany and Schenectady road in 1826. At forty-one years he was elected to congress from Montgomery, Fulton and Hamilton counties, as a Jackson democrat and when the election of President devolved upon congress he supported Jackson. At fifty he came to the west with his family of nine children by way of the lakes, and reached Milwaukee June 8, 1843; two months later he moved to Eagle, where he died Sept. 12, 1872. In religion Mr. Bovee was a universalist. His funeral occurred Sept. 15, 1872, and was in charge of the Masons of which he was a royal arch member. Mrs. Bovee was born April 16, 1793 and died June 12, 1892. The family consisted of William R., Marvin H., Halsey, Benjamin, Elizabeth, wife of Joseph Sprague, Mrs. Pittman, Mrs. McHugh, all of whom, except Mrs. McHugh, have gone to the great beyond.

William R. Bovee was born Oct. 11, 1823, and died Aug. 18, 1874. In politics he was an active Democrat and held many offices of trust. He was town clerk in the early sixties. Clerk of the board of supervisors, Waukesha county, deputy register of deeds. Mrs. Bovee was born March 15, 1825 and died March 16, 1906. Ella Bovee was born Sept. 3, 1855, and died Oct. 26, 1891. The monument was erected by Mrs. Ezra Bovee Clemons of Minneapolis and her brother, Manly W. Bovee of Indian Territory.

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