

SENECA SMITH DIES

Success Attained Early

Pioneer, ex-Judge of Circuit Court and Attorney of Note Passes in 70th Year.

Death Calls Man Who Saw Portland Grow From Hamlet Stage in 1847 to Metropolis—Short-hand Aid in His Climax.

Ex-Judge Seneca Smith, pioneer Portland attorney and one of the most prominent residents of the state, died at his home in 837 Fremont street at midnight after an illness of several months. He was 70 years of age.

Judge Smith came to Portland as a youth with the parents who crossed the plains behind the regulation yoke of oxen. He was educated in the schools and colleges of this state and was admitted to the bar here, where he devoted his life to the practice of law, and was more than usually successful in the pursuit of that profession.

While he was without personal political ambition, he always took a keen interest in civic and economic affairs and at various times held high office in the councils of the Democratic party. In later years he was a close friend and adviser of Governor Lane. He was well known throughout the state and had friends everywhere.

Seneca Smith was a native of Indiana. He was born on the banks of the storied Wabash August 16, 1844. His father for many years was a prominent manufacturer in the state and in 1847 he started with his family for the great Northwest which seemed to offer greater opportunities for his talent and activity.

The family arrived in Portland—then a village—in the fall of the same year, but within a few weeks after arriving here the father died and the widow and eight children, of which Seneca Smith was the youngest but one, survived.

After the death of the husband and father the family moved to the Clatsop Valley, in Yamhill County, where they lived until 1852 when the widow married J. C. Cray and the widow and eight children, of which Seneca Smith was the youngest but one, survived.

Young Seneca Smith entered a log school at Butteville in the pursuit of the elementary branches of learning. Later he attended the Lafayette school and McMinnville college and completed his literary course in Willamette University.

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