

[Lenz, Richard A.]

DEATH OF R. A. LENZ, PASTOR UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

The whole community was shocked yesterday (Thursday) morning, when it was announced that Rev. Richard A. Lenz, pastor of the Universalist church, was dead. His body was found at seven o'clock, in his woodshed, where he had ended his own life by hanging. Mrs. Lenz discovered the dead body and summoned Miss Steele-Brook, the high school preceptress, who boards in the family. Dr. Brown was immediately summoned, and on his arrival pronounced Mr. Lenz dead.

Rev. Lenz came here with his wife from Foster, Pa., last November.

He was twenty-three years old and a graduate of Canton University, class of 1909. During his residence here he made friends with everyone, and was most highly regarded by all who knew him. Besides his wife he is survived by his parents, one sister, and three brothers, who reside at Binghamton.

Rev. and Mrs. Lenz were finely located in the Universalist parsonage at the corner of Church and Mill streets; they were happy together in their home, and money matters did not worry them.

For the past two months Rev. Lenz had been nervous and had walked the floor in his home at times, on one occasion stating to his wife that it would be better if he "was out of it entirely."

The evening previous to his death he was up town purchasing goods, and seemed to be in good spirits. He attended the Universalist church supper Tuesday evening, and later the same evening spoke at the library meeting held at the same place.

He was well liked by his congregation, who had learned to regard him as a talented student and preacher, and no cause can be assigned for his death, except over study.

The sympathy of the whole community will go out to Mrs. Lenz in her sad bereavement.

Coroner Bowen, of Mt. Morris, came here on the ten o'clock train, and after learning the above facts, issued the usual certificate.

Since Rev. Lenz came to Nunda it has been remarked many times by persons competent to judge that his sermons were marvelous—more like those one would expect from a man of fifty rather than from a young man twenty-three years old. As one man expressed it yesterday morning, "Every sentence was polished and fine."

Rev. Lenz's father was born in Germany and his mother in England. At the inquest held yesterday it was brought out that Rev. Lenz was of a nervous temperament, being extremely nervous during his college days. After making a thorough inquiry into the matter, Coroner Bowen was satisfied it was during a temporary spell of insanity, brought on by over study, that caused Rev. Lenz to take his own life.

[Lenz, Richard A.]

Funeral services will be held at the Universalist parsonage Saturday at 2 p. m., and the remains will be taken to Canton, N. Y., for burial. Mr. Lenz's parents, brothers and sister, of Binghamton, will be here for the funeral; Mrs. Lenz's parents arrived here last night from Canton, also her brother, B. N. Hern and wife, of Syracuse.

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