

[Allen, Erastus W.]

ERASTUS W. ALLEN

Death of a Well Known Veteran and Prison Keeper

DIED WHERE HE WAS BORN

Was One of the Oldest Native Residents

And Came of Old Cayuga County Family

Erastus W. Allen of No. 125 North Division Street, died this morning at his home soon after 11 o'clock. He had been ill seriously during the past 10 days, but in the past few years had been in failing health. The deceased was well known to most of the older residents of Auburn and particularly in G.A.R. and Auburn Prison circles. He had been a keeper in the prison for over a quarter of a century and left his labors there a week ago last Wednesday when the approaching infirmities of age and bowel trouble brought him to his bed.

Erastus W. Allen came from an old Cayuga County family. He was born in the old homestead in which he died, nearly 80 years ago, his birth having occurred there on March 3, 1835. He was one of the oldest Democrats in this section of the state, his first vote being cast for James Buchanan in 1856 and for Stephen A. Douglas in 1860. He had voted for every Democratic presidential candidate to and including Woodrow Wilson.

He enlisted in the Union Army and became a member of Battery A, Third New York Light Artillery, Captain Samuel P. Russell, August 1864, and was discharged July, 1865, at the close of the war. He was an active member of Seward-Crocker Post G.A.R. On October 1, 1887 he was appointed a keeper in Auburn Prison by the late Warden Charles F. Durston. He has served continuously in the prison where his genial conduct and winning personality endeared him to inmates and fellow officers alike. He was gate keeper at the North gate for over 20 years.

One of his comrades in the war is the present gatekeeper, James Griffin, who was a member of the same battery and who entered prison service a number of years after the war, meeting Mr. Allen there after they had not seen each other since the war time service.

Mr. Allen leaves his wife, Ella L. Allen and one son, Louis E. Allen, who is living in the West. The funeral arrangements are incomplete. Burial will be made in Fort Hill Cemetery.

*Auburn Citizen*, Auburn NY, Sat. 6 Sep 1913

[Allen, Erastus W.]

Funeral of Erastus W. Allen

The funeral of Erastus W. Allen was held at this late home, No. 125 North Division Street, this afternoon at 2 o'clock, Rev. Arnold S. Yantis, pastor of the First Universalist church, officiating. Seward-Crocker Post 45, G.A.R., and Colonel Kennedy Circle, Ladies of the G.A.R. conducted the ritualistic services of their order at the home.

The casket was banked with flowers, silent testimonials of the great esteem in which he was held by all his friends and neighbors.

At the grave a firing squad from Company M fired a salute over his resting place. The bearers, who were officers of the prison and members of the G.A.R. were: Warden Charles F. Rattisan, Daniel J. Grant, John Woodall, William M. Hosmer, Samuel Harris and John McCarthy. Interment was made in Fort Hill Cemetery.

*Auburn Citizen*, Auburn NY, Tue. 9 Sep 1913

Transcribed on 29 Feb 2024 by Karen E. Dau of East Rochester, NY