

[Baldwin, Melvin E.]

SURROGATE A SUICIDE  
County Shocked at Sudden News—Mentally Unbalanced

At the noon hour last Thursday Melvin E. Baldwin shot and killed himself in J.P. Friery's office adjoining his own law office in Schenevus. Mr. Baldwin was a highly respected citizen of his town, a widely known lawyer of ability, Surrogate of the county, prosperous and successful in his business, genial and affable above the average, and happy in his domestic relations. The only reason that can be advanced for the rash act committed is the result of a recent fall on the ice in which Mr. Baldwin sustained a severe contusion on the back of his head.

Mr. Baldwin was 53 years old and is survived by his wife and one daughter. He had three years yet to serve as County Surrogate, in which office he had shown marked ability.

The large attendance at the funeral from his late home in Schenevus Sunday afternoon was in keeping with Judge Baldwin's popularity at home and throughout the county.

*Otsego Tidings*, Milford NY, Thu. 3 Feb 1916

Transcribed on 13 Aug 2011 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY

[Baldwin, Melvin E.]

FUNERAL OF JUDGE BALDWIN

The funeral of the late Surrogate Melvin E. Baldwin of Schenevus took place at his home in that village on Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock and was attended, besides many relatives and friends, by a large representation of the members of the Otsego county bar and other members of the legal fraternity from other parts of the state.

The Rev. L. C. Nichols of the Chapin Memorial Universalist church of Oneonta officiated and at the request of the family refrained from personal allusions either to the life and character of the deceased or to the mourning friends, confining the service to a selection of scriptural quotations fitting to the occasion, to the reading of two poems—"Sometime" and "Crossing the Bar"—a prayer of a consoling nature and to brief remarks suggested by the Hundredth [sic] and Sixteenth Psalm.

During the service Harold F. Albert, the well known soloist of Oneonta, sang, "Near the Cross" and at its close he sang "All's Well With My Soul," both being exceptionally well rendered and both being favorite hymns of the deceased.

There was a large concourse of friends accompanying the funeral party to the cemetery, where, upon the bluff overlooking the valley, the body was interred in the family plot, the following friends of the deceased acting as bearers: The Hon. Oscar F. Lane, John Graney, Herbert Bernard, George Lovell, James P. Friery, Esq., of Schenevus, and Hon. Charles C. Flaesch of Unadilla.

*Otsego Farmer*, Cooperstown NY, Fri. 4 Feb 1916

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