

[Chase, DeWitt Clinton]

COMMITTED SUICIDE

DeWitt Clinton Chase of Burtonsville Kills Himself

DeWitt Clinton Chase, one of the most prominent residents of Burtonsville and the town of Charleston, committed suicide yesterday morning at his home in that place, by cutting his throat and wrists with a razor.

About 7:30 o'clock Mrs. Chase left the house to go to a neighbor's after a supply of milk, and, taking advantage of her absence, Mr. Chase secured a sheet and went into the yard where with a razor he first endeavored to cause his death by severing the arteries of one wrist and then those of the other. Failing to meet with success in this, he next cut a deep gash in his throat, nearly to the windpipe, although no arteries were severed. From the wounds inflicted by the razor he died this morning at about 1:30 o'clock. His physical condition has been weakened by ill health, and he was unable to withstand the shock of the self-inflicted wounds.

The cause of his rash act is supposed to be due to his failing health. Since last March he had suffered intensely from nervous trouble, and it is believed that he was also afflicted with consumption, as he had long experienced great difficulty in breathing. His sufferings became so intense that it doubtless affected his mind, which accounts for his taking of his life.

Mr. Chase was about 78 years old and had long been one of the leading citizens of his town. He possessed a brilliant intellect and was well educated. He was a leader in all temperance reform movements. He was an ardent Universalist and took great interest in that church. He was always an earnest Republican worker and did much for the party in his town. For a number of years he held the office of justice of the peace, and on April 19, (1861?) he was appointed postmaster at Burtonsville, a position which he held with an interval of four years, during the first administration of President Cleveland, until the recent appointment of his successor, Nicholas Gridley, by President Cleveland. He was a man of excellent character and had a host of friends. His sad death is deeply deplored.

The funeral will be held from the house at 1 o'clock tomorrow afternoon and at 2 o'clock from the Christian church at Burtonsville, Rev. Mr. Perry of the Fort Plain Universalist church officiating. The interment will be made at Esperance.

*Daily Democrat*, Amsterdam NY, Wed. 29 Aug 1894

[Chase, DeWitt Clinton]

DEWITT CLINTON CHASE

The subject of this sketch was born in the town of Duanesburgh, Schenectady Co., N.Y., Oct 22d, 1816, and became a resident of Burtonville August 25th 1841. During a long life of nearly 78 years, he filled many important public positions, in every instance with rare ability and fidelity. For twenty-five years he was employed as a public instructor, and his influence in this capacity extended directly upon three generations of his fellow townsmen. He held the office of Justice of the Peace for 19 years and that of Notary Public for 14 years.

He was a devoted Christian, having been a member of the Universalist church over 57 years and a man of rare intelligence, had a comprehensive grasp of all the important questions of the day. He was ardent in his attachment to the right, spurning whatever he believed to be wrong and was a prominent leader in the temperance reform.

In 1854 (Nov. 23d) he was married to Miss Jane L. Dakin of Hillsdale, Columbia Co., N.Y., a lady of excellent character, rare intelligence. One son was born to them, Clarence D. Chase, now nearly 24 years of age. He holds a responsible position, that of cashier in the offices of the N.Y., N.H. & H. Railway, at Northampton, Mass., and is a young man of sterling worth and very great force of character.

Since March last Mr. Chase has been a great sufferer from pulmonary affliction and nervous prostration, resulting in a weakening of his body as well as his mind. On Wednesday August 29th death came to his release. His son was summoned by a telegraph when the inevitable was known to be at hand, and he arrived about an hour before the end came.

The funeral services were held at the Christian church in Burtonville on Thursday last in the presence of a vast throng who had known the sterling worth of D. C. Chase all their lives, and who loved him for his genial qualities. Rev. E. A. Perry of Fort Plain delivered an impressive sermon. The remains were interred at Esperance.

*Quaker St. Review*, Schenectady NY, Thu. 6 Sep 1894