

[Cheney, John Calvin]

John C. Cheney, one of the area's most prominent farmers, died at 9:35 a.m. today in WCA Hospital. He was 82. Mr. Cheney became ill Monday while at the Bank of Jamestown. Mr. Cheney was born September 29, 1871, the youngest of 11 children of Asa and Catherine Griffith Cheney. He attended area schools and graduated in 1895 from Eastman Business School, Poughkeepsie, before returning to his family's farm at Belleview. He was married to Edith Bates, Sept. 6, 1900, and built his home at the farm two years later. He was one of the first farmers to own Guernsey cattle, and has become well known for experimental plots on his farm where new varieties of crops were tested. In addition to the dairy farm, he has grown large acreages of potatoes. He was a pioneer in the Farm Bureau, which he served as director and president; was an organizer of the Grange League Federation; a charter member of the Dairymen's League; a pioneer in the Dairy Herd Improvement Association, and was a member for 50 years of Union Grange. Mr. Cheney served for more than 30 years as a trustee of the Bemus Point Cemetery Association; and was for many years trustee and clerk of Ellery School District No. 5. He was affiliated with the Universalist Church at Bemus Point. Survivors include his wife, a son, Asa B. Cheney, a daughter, Mrs. Agnes Russell of Bemus Point; six grandchildren: Donna Cheney, Edith Cheney, William Cheney and John Cheney, and Bruce Russell, all of Bemus Point, and Mrs. Hobart Weise (Anabelle) of Mayville, and one great-granddaughter, Mayville. The body is at the Evans Funeral Home, Bemus Point, where services will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday. Rev. Dr. Karl A. Bach, minister of the Unitarian Church of Jamestown will officiate. Burial will be in Bemus Point Cemetery.

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Transcribed on 15 Apr 2009 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY