

[Christman, Clarence]

ANOTHER FATAL ACCIDENT

Last Friday morning R. Aplin drove into this village bringing the sad news that Clarence Christman, living one mile south of this village, had accidentally shot himself. Mr. Christman, after eating his breakfast[,] took up his .32-calibre rifle and after loading it said he would go into the back room adjoining the house and shoot some rats (as he had been in the habit of doing before). As he had been suffering with rheumatism for a number of years he went about the house by the aid of a chair, placing the gun between his knees and wheeling his chair with his hands, as he had to go over a threshold. His brother and son who were in the sitting room heard him go over the threshold and then came the report of a gun at the same time. They supposed he had shot a rat, but very soon they heard him groan. Mrs. Southworth ran to the door and seeing that he had shot himself went for aid. When the doctor came Mr. Christman was still alive and he found the ball went up under his chin and out the top of his head and was found in a beam above. Mr. Christman lived until Saturday afternoon about four o'clock.

Mr. Christman lived in this village about four years ago, running the Veber hotel at the time. He was 56 years and ten months of age and is survived by a wife [Marcella Ford Christman] and son [Dayton Christman] who are stricken with grief and have the sympathy of the whole community. He has also three sisters, Mrs. Charles Stephens and Mrs. A. B. Armstrong of Richfield Springs, [and] Mrs. Gilson [Anna Chilson, per her gravestone] of Rochester, and one brother Robert, also living at the Springs. Mr. Christman was a member of the Schuyler Lake Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons. The funeral service was held on Wednesday at 2 o'clock at his home, the Rev. S. R. [Samuel Roland] Ward [Universalist] of Richfield Springs officiating. The funeral was conducted by the Masons here and there were some of the craft present from adjoining towns. Interment in our village cemetery.—[Schuyler Lake reporter.]

*Otsego Farmer*, Cooperstown NY, Fri. 15 Oct 1897