

## [Cleveland, Thomas Jefferson]

### THOS J. CLEVELAND PASSES AWAY WAS ONE OF CITY'S BEST KNOWN RESIDENTS

Thomas J. Cleveland, one of the best known residents of this city, died at 2:45 yesterday in a local hospital. He had not enjoyed good health for nearly two years and had suffered several strokes of paralysis, the last on Wednesday afternoon, and was unconscious from that time until the end. He suffered his first stroke in May 1904, when his right side became affected. For some time his sight, speech and powers of locomotion had been impaired and since October 1 last he had been unable to walk. He endured his affliction patiently and was hopeful almost to the end.

Thomas Jefferson Cleveland was born in Williamsport, Pa., September 1, 1852, and was the youngest son of the late Daniel and Almeda Cleveland. When Thomas was three years of age his parents moved to Utica. They lived on Kossuth avenue for a while and afterward bought a house on the corner of Broad and Mohawk streets, where they resided for a number of years. Mrs. Cleveland died in this city about 15 years ago and two years later was followed by her husband. When living on Kossuth avenue, Thomas went to the old Albany Street School and subsequently attended private school on Blandina street. [On] January 31, 1876, while living on Broad street, he married Eliza D. Williams of Utica.

Mr. Cleveland worked at lithographing and engraving for some time after leaving school. He was fond of (athletica?) and devoted himself to acrobatic work, in which he became unusually expert. As an acrobat he joined the old John Robinson circus and in the same capacity was with the P.T. Barnum show. Then he went as advance agent for William F. Cody, "Buffalo Bill," and later filled a similar position with Happy Cal Wagner's Minstrel Company. While the late John W. Abercrombie was manager of the old Utica Opera House, he organized an "Uncle Tom's Cabin" troupe and sent it on the road with Mr. Cleveland as manager and the late Will Sibson as treasurer.

When Mr. Cleveland returned at the end of the season he went into the hat business. He sold and polished silk hats and built up a good trade. He was at this for about 17 years, during which period he had his establishment at 178 Genesee street and other locations in the city. Subsequently he became a cigar salesman for Bogart & Hayden of New York and afterward was with Kirkland Brothers of Utica, the Ontario Cigar Company of Oswego and A. T. Kirkland of this city. For a time between these engagements he traveled for O. J. Childs, selling the Utica fire extinguisher and for one summer three years ago he was in the employ of the Central New York Telephone and Telegraph Company, being with a construction gang. His last

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steady employment was with A. T. Kirkland in May, 1904, when he suffered his first stroke of paralysis. After that he was not actively engaged.

Mr. Cleveland's work had much to do with the success of burlesque features for many Fourth of July parades in Utica. He had original ideas in this respect and carried them out well, sometimes impersonating one of the characters represented on the floats. Mr. Cleveland had a genial disposition and was a man whom it was a pleasure to meet. He was a charter member of the Utica (?) No. (?), Fraternal Order of Eagles and was also a member of the Commercial Travelers' Mutual Benefit Association. In politics he was a strong Republican, although he never held or sought political office. He had attended the Church of the Reconciliation [Universalist]. He was widely known and well liked by all.

Besides his wife, Mr. Cleveland leaves two daughters, Alberta E., wife of Leslie E. Brown of this city and Alida A., wife of M. Klossman of New York. He is survived also by two brothers, Charles F. and James Cleveland, both of Utica.

*Herald-Dispatch*, Utica NY, Fri. 2 Mar 1906

Transcribed on 18 Sep 2013 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY