

[Dorchester, Hooker]

DEATHS.

FATAL ACCIDENT.

Brownville, Jefferson county, April 14, 1834 [sic]

Our society here has lost one of its most active and useful members, HOOKER DORCHESTER, Esq., who was at the time of his death, one of the Trustees of our society. His death was occasioned by the accidental discharge of a fowling piece on Monday the 6th inst. The circumstances are these—He came into his house apparently in haste, passed through the kitchen into another room where the gun was, and immediately after the people in the kitchen heard the report, went into the room and found him lying on the floor senseless, the whole charge having gone into the mouth and lodged in the brain. It is supposed, that before coming into the house he saw something he wished to shoot at, came in, in haste for his gun, he placed the muzzle to his mouth to blow in, to ascertain if it was charged, at the same time dropping the breech on the floor, which produced the discharge. It was afterwards ascertained that the lock would spring by dropping the breech on the floor, it was a set lock and would go very easy. The gun had been used the day previous by a young man and probably left with the lock set. Mr. Dorchester resided in Hounsfield, about three miles and a half from this village. He was an honor to our society, and to the neighborhood and town in which he lived. I understand he has left an aged mother, a widow and several children to mourn his tragical and untimely exit.

Your affectionate brother¹,

Alanson Skinner

Evangelical Magazine & Gospel Advocate, Utica NY, Sat. 25 Apr 1835
[a Universalist newspaper]

Transcribed on 18 Aug 2012 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY

¹ He was a brother of the newspaper's proprietor, Rev. Dolphus Skinner.