

[Judd, Sylvester Nott]

SYLVESTER N. JUDD¹ OF PIONEER FAMILY

GRANDFATHER, SOLDIER IN THE REVOLUTION,
CAME TO CANTON IN THE BEGINNING

Born on the Farm on Pierrepont Road, Educated at Old Canton Academy and St.
Lawrence University, '71, Admitted to the Bar, but Married Fannie Wolcott
and Made Home of the Farm for Sixty Years Until His Death

Daniel Sylvester² Judd, a lifelong resident of the town of Canton, and a member of a family that goes back to the very early settlement of the town, passed away at his home on the Pierrepont Road Tuesday afternoon, after a long and critical illness, during months of which he was in a very weak and helpless condition. Funeral service was conducted at the late home Thursday afternoon at 2:30, the Rev. Emerson H. Lalone, pastor of the First Universalist Church of Canton officiating. Burial was made at the Bridge Cemetery where members of the family are buried, and where his brother, the late Luman Daniel Judd who passed two years ago on Aug. 1, 1932 sleeps.

As above stated the Judd family was of the first who came into the township of Canton. They came with the Traceys and Conkeys and the Footes and others whose names may be found in the little Silas Wright Cemetery or out in the old Bridge Cemetery where burials are recorded on the markers or monuments as far back at least as 1808. Sylvester Nott Judd was the son of [no name given] and Hepsibah Burnham Judd, born Aug. 5, 1851 on the next farm to that of the one occupied at the time of his death. To this latter farm he moved at the time of his marriage in September, 1874, to Fannie Wolcott.

As above related the Judd family is one of the very early families of the town. A St. Lawrence County history relates "Dan Judd, a soldier of the Revolution, was the first miller in Stillman Foote's mill" in the village of Canton. The mill that was part sawmill and gristmill and stood where now the VanRensselaer Mill stands as a warehouse on the west side of the river, or very near that site. The history relates further that Dan Judd took up land where now the "Tyler Martin farm is." Everybody knows the Elisha Martin farm, now owned by Elermon Thompson, a short distance from this village on the Potsdam road. That Dan Judd was a Grandfather of Sylvester Nott Judd.

¹ This obituary appears on two pages in the *Advertiser*. In the title on the first page the decedent's name is "Sylvester N. Judd," but the article itself first states it as Daniel Sylvester Judd. Then in the title on the second page, his name is stated as "Sylvester D. Judd." There is no explanation given for these apparent discrepancies.

² See the note above about how his name is stated.

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It is interesting that Sylvester Judd's father was the second white child born on the east side of Grasse River in the town of Canton. The Judd family later removed to the Pierrepont road, further out where has been the Judd home until this day. The late Luman Daniel Judd, brother of Sylvester, was born and died in the same room of the house on the Judd farm where Sylvester Judd passed his early years, before his marriage in 1874.

Sylvester Judd attended the local district school and later the old Canton Academy on Pearl Street. In the fall of 1867 he entered St. Lawrence University. In this class entered also Fannie Matilda Wolcott of Barre, Vt. Fannie Wolcott became the wife of the young student three years after the graduation of the two from St. Lawrence in the class of 1871. After leaving St. Lawrence he pursued the study of the law and in 1872 received the degree of Bachelor of Law from Union College. Of those who were of the class of 1871, St. Lawrence, only three [are] living, according to the University Almanac, Elizabeth Alzina Barber Hastetter of Mount Carroll, Ill., Dr. Grosvenor S. Farmer of Watertown and George A. Miller of Santa Monica, Calif.

Sylvester Judd after being admitted to the bar established himself in an office in the village of Norwood there expecting to engage in practice. He did not, however, remain but a short time, returning to Canton and on September 30, 1874, married Fannie Wolcott, culminating a romance that began at St. Lawrence. The married life of Sylvester Judd and Fannie Wolcott Judd was ideally the perfect union. Into that home came with the union, culture and love and helpfulness which continued through the long years. On Sept. 30, 1924, Mr. and Mrs. Judd celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary and at that time came many of their friends to spend the day and evening with them. One year almost from that time, on Sept. 22, 1925, Mrs. Judd passed away.

To Mr. and Mrs. Judd were born two sons, Daniel Sylvester and Harry Wolcott, both of whom are long dead, Harry dying in 1903 and Daniel in 1908. It may be of interest to state that of those who attended the wedding of Sylvester and Fannie Wolcott Judd on Sept. 30, 1874, all are dead, Luman D. Judd who died two years ago being the last of all that gay wedding party, with the exception of the bridegroom, to remain. The marriage was solemnized by the late Dr. John Stebbins Lee, the first acting president of St. Lawrence University.

The Judds were members of the Universalist Church of Canton. Mr. Judd was a member of the County Bar Association and a member of the Masonic bodies of Canton, probably one of the oldest Masons in Canton, joining St. Lawrence Lodge early in life and affiliating with St. Lawrence Commander, Knights Templar, a great many years ago. The late Maurice Smith, now long dead, used to tell of how when he joined the Masons he found Vet Judd on

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one side grasping his arm, and Lume Judd on the other, holding the other arm, and with this sort of sponsoring he felt safe.

He was a member of Silas Wright Grange. Mrs. Judd was for long years prominent in the local, county and State Grange, and held the office of Lecturer of the State Grange.

Mr. Judd leaves no direct descendants. One son, Daniel, married, but left no issue. His widow (Mary R. PerLee), later married Wm. H. Slater, and is now a resident of Norwich, N.Y. There are remaining, a niece, Mrs. Jessie Judd Mead of this village; a nephew, Frank Stockton, son of a sister, who resides away; there is a grandnephew, Earl Mead of this village, and a grandniece Mrs. Walter Boyden, who lives at the Judd farm.

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Transcribed on 6 Sep 2013 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY