

## [Kip, Henry DeValcourt]

### Henry DeValcourt Kip

Henry DeValcourt Kip, son of Albert Ryckman and Lovina Horr Kip, was born in Watertown, New York, November 24, 1830 and died in Canton, February 21, 1909. His ancestors were of Dutch descent and had lived for several generations in the city of New York, where Albert Ryckman Kip was born in 1794. When Henry DeValcourt Kip was a lad of eleven years, his father's family removed from Watertown to Canton, where the father died in 1880. The house in which Mr. Kip died has been the home of the family since 1840.

[On] September 15, 1859, Mr. Kip was married to Miss Harriet Ball, daughter of William and Philena Barber Ball. Had he lived until September 15 of this year, Mr. and Mrs. Kip would have celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of their wedding, in the house in which his father and mother celebrated theirs, October 22, 1869. There were born to them four children: Harriet May, of Canton; William F., of New York; Albert F., of Nebraska, and Benjamin M., of Canton. A brother of Mr. Kip was killed at Memphis, in the Civil War, and a sister died in Canton in 1858.

Mr. Kip became a Mason in 1888. He was a member of St. Lawrence Lodge, No. 111, F. & A.M., and was Past High Priest of St. Lawrence Chapter, No. 132, Royal Arch Masons, and Past Eminent Commander of St. Lawrence Commandery, No. 28, Knights Templars. His funeral was held with Masonic honors. Reverend George M. Gerrish [Universalist], a former pastor of Mr. Kip, spoke feelingly of his life and character.

Before his strength became impaired, Mr. Kip was a fresco painter of repute. Endowed with fine taste and with the eye and hand of an artist, he was by nature fitted for this occupation, and to the other qualities which made him an expert workman were added a painstaking disposition and endless patience in the performance of his work. In his later years he devoted his skill and leisure to the painting of portraits and landscapes. On the walls of many homes, delicate water colors attest his sympathetic appreciation of natural beauty and the fidelity with which he represented it. In perspective he was excellent. His pictures generally show a wide stretch of peaceful landscape spread beneath a northern sky. He belonged to no school of art; he was unhampered by convention. He was no impressionist. He painted "the things as he saw them for the God of things as they are." Of poetry, too, he was fond, as he was of all things that appeal to a refined taste; and his friends know that he wrote verse of genuine merit.

Mr. Kip was a man of singular serenity of temper; he was averse to ostentation and avoided rather than sought prominence in the community, but in his long life he became well known and he received and deserved

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universal respect. Modest and unpretending, he never obtruded his opinions upon others, and no uncharitable word was ever heard upon his lips. At the same time he was a man of firm convictions, of a keen sense of right, and of transparent integrity. Always deliberate in word and act, he was unhesitating in the performance of what he believed to be his duty. His blameless life and venerable appearance invested him with an air of dignity peculiarly fit in the sacred offices which for many years he performed in the church and in fraternal orders. Of these organizations he was an exemplary member; he was a man of firm religious faith, and in its consolation he came to the end of life "sustained and soothed by an unfaltering trust."

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