

[Lawton, Bradley]

Drowning of Bradley Lawton

Bradley Lawton, a son of Mrs. Lydia Lawton, of Rochester, formerly of this place, was drowned in the canal while bathing [swimming] last Thursday evening. Young Lawton was employed with the Blaw & Barnum drug concern on Mill Street and lived on North Clinton street [avenue]. Young Lawton in company with a friend Floyd Nesbitt, he went to call on his mother at the Washington Street dock on the Erie canal.

After visiting awhile the boys decided to have a swim in the canal. They swam across the canal once when young Lawton cried out as if in distress. Nesbitt swam to his assistance when Lawton grabbed him about the neck and pulled him under. Captain Burns, who had been attracted by the boys' cries, pushed out a pike pole, which was grasped by Nesbitt, who was pulled on board where he collapsed from exhaustion. Lawton had sunk from sight. Every effort was made to rescue Lawton, but without success. His body was recovered after dragging the canal for an hour. The remains were brought to Holley for burial, services being held from the Hillside cemetery chapel Sunday morning, Rev. Frank J. Angel, of the Clarendon Universalist church officiating.

The incident is particularly sad as he was drowned in sight of his mother who was unable to go to his aid. He resided in this village until about a year ago, when he removed to Rochester to take a position with the Sibley, Lindsay & Curr Co. Later he was employed by the Blaw & Barnum Co., where his faithful and intelligent service earned him an important and responsible position, although a boy being scarcely 18 years of age.

His cheerful disposition and winning qualities have endeared him to a host of friends both here and in Rochester, who will mourn his loss. He is survived by his mother and one brother, Lewis Lawton, of this village.

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