

[Leaning, John]

Dr. John K. Leaning

Dr. John Kennington Leaning passed away last Friday morning at his home on Susquehanna avenue, after an illness of one week of pneumonia. His death removes from Cooperstown one of its oldest, best known and most respected residents.

Dr. Leaning was born in Canajoharie, Nov. 10, 1823. His parents came from Lincolnshire, England, in that year. At an early age, Dr. Leaning commenced teaching school. He entered the Cherry Valley Academy as student and assistant teacher, and was graduated from that institution in 1843. During the succeeding five years he was principal of the Lancaster School in Cherry Valley. In 1843 he began the study of medicine with Dr. Menzo White of that village. In 1847 and 1848 he attended lectures at the University of Pennsylvania, and was graduated from Castleton Medicine College in 1848.

Dr. Leaning began the practice of medicine at Oaksville, in 1848, and in 1854 he removed to Flycreek, and remained in actual practice there until 1890, when he removed to Cooperstown, where he has resided since, continuing practice to some extent till his death. In early life he was Surgeon of the 39th Regiment, in the 18th Brigade, 5th Division of N.Y. State militia. Dr. Leaning was one of the founders of the New York State Medical association, a permanent member of the Medical society of the State of New York, a member of the American Medical association, and of the Otsego County Medical society. He was also president of the Board of Physicians and Surgeons of Thanksgiving hospital of Cooperstown.

Dr. Leaning was married in 1848 to Jane E. Gross of Cherry Valley, and to them three children were born, a son and two daughters. The former died in 1890. Mrs. Leaning, Miss Annie Elizabeth Leaning and Mrs. Fannie C., wife of Charles P. Thompson, survive.

As a physician he ranked deservedly high and always took a deep interest in his profession. He was a member and supporter of the Universalist church. In politics he was a staunch Democrat; was at one time a coroner of the county and twice served on the Board of Supervisors, representing the town of Otsego. He was identified with both the Masonic and Odd Fellow fraternities.

A funeral was held from his late home Monday afternoon, the Rev. E. A. Perry of the Universalist church officiating. The services at the grave in Lakewood were conducted by the Masons.

*Otsego Farmer*, Cooperstown NY, Fri. 11 Apr 1901