

[Lewis, Rienza C.]

RIENZA C. LEWIS
Ancestors Were Among Early Settlers in the Valley—
Was An Accomplished Musician

At his home, the Central Hotel, on Main street, Tuesday at 3:15 p.m., occurred the death of Rienza C. Lewis. He had been in poor health a number of years and for several months had been a great sufferer from a complication of diseases. It had been known for some time that he could not recover and all that kind hands and hearts could do had been done to relieve his suffering. Mr. Lewis was born in Jacksonburg, September 27, 1848, the son of Henry and Dorothy Casler Lewis. His ancestors on his mother's side came from Holland with the Palatine immigrants and braved the hardships of those sturdy people in settling homes in the Mohawk Valley. His great grandfather fought in the Revolutionary war. At Little Falls in 1869 he married Miss Elva A. Mixter and from that village 27 years ago they came here and have since resided here. They had two daughters, Mabel and Maude. The former died in 1893.

After coming here Mr. Lewis was engaged in the West Shore shops until their removal to Albany. He then opened a photograph gallery and he understood the art well. He made a number of cameras in all their parts. He loved music and was a fine musician, playing the violin, guitar and banjo and band instruments, and gave lessons on these instruments. When in Little Falls he organized a band and was its leader. He was a member of the West Shore band here until it was disbanded. He was a man of more than ordinary ability but only his intimate friends knew this, as he was of a quiet and retiring nature and did not care for popularity. He was at one time a member of the Masonic Lodge in Little Falls but after coming here allowed his membership to drop. He was a Universalist in faith and believed in doing as he would be done by. He was kind hearted and always ready to grant a favor. He is survived by his wife; one daughter, Mrs. John Gaffney, who has always resided at home except [for] a few years when she was in the West, and two brothers, Fernando Lewis of East Frankfort and Dr. Henry Lewis of Argyle, Washington County. A grandson, Donald Gaffney, who was his grandfather's pride, also survives.

The funeral, private, was held from his late home yesterday afternoon, the pastor of the Universalist Church in Dolgeville officiating. The bearers were Aaron Eaton, Fred J. Tine, Howard M. Smith and Chas. W. Nipe.

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