

[McCartney, Charles]

Suicide Near Madison

On Monday evening, about 7:30 o'clock, the body of Charles McCartney, a well known resident of the town of Madison, was found hanging in the cow barn on his farm, situated about three and one-half miles from this village, on the Madison road. Appearances indicated that he had been dead for some hours, and he was last seen alive about 2:30 o'clock that afternoon. The hired man, Harry Wager, made the gruesome discovery after a lengthy search.

Mr. McCartney had not been feeling well and during the day had complained of a severe pain in his head. His little five-year-old grandson, George Camp, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Dana [Marcella] Camp, with whom Mr. McCartney lived, had been about with his grandfather much of the day, and had been sent on numerous errands, which were probably devised as a means of getting rid of the little fellow in order that he might carry out his terrible plan. Upon returning from one of these errands the little boy reported to his mother that he could not find his grandfather. It was thought that possibly Mr. McCartney had gone down to the hop yard or over to his cousin's, Otis McCartney's, who lives nearby, and no great alarm was felt until supper time came and he had not returned. Then a thorough search began and it was continued until the body was found in the darkened barn, where it had probably hung since early afternoon.

Mr. McCartney was born and had always lived on the farm on which he died and had a great fondness for his old home. He was three times married, the last time about sixteen years ago, his wife dying in February of the present year. He was a man who had met with many discouragements and much hard work, and since the death of his last wife had been rather despondent, brooding over his troubles instead of shaking them off as had been his wont in the past. His health had not been very good and this, too helped to keep him in low spirits. Some years ago a sister committed suicide, so that he is not the first of his family to end his life in this abrupt way. He was 68 years of age and was held in the highest esteem by his neighbors and the community in which he had been known as a boy and a man. He was an attendant at the Universalist Church in Madison.

Mrs. Camp, the step-daughter with whom he lived, is the daughter of his late wife, but came to live with her step-father when only a child. None but the kindest and most pleasant relations existed between them and they were like own father and daughter, so that the consequences of his rash act fall heavily upon her. It has been stated that when he married last he placed his property in his wife's name, and as she died without making any will it naturally reverted to her daughter. This has been given by some as the

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cause of his act, but as he would naturally have so left his property, and his well known fondness for his wife's daughter would seem to discredit this reason. Besides Mrs. Camp, he leaves one brother, James, of Frankfort.

The funeral was held from his late home at 2 o'clock on Wednesday afternoon and was largely attended by neighbors and friends.

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