

[Neff, Stewart M.]

STEWART NEFF SUCCUMBS TO HEART ATTACK
Capitalist-Churchman Is Stricken at 68—Rites Tomorrow

Stewart M. Neff, Rochester capitalist, died unexpectedly early yesterday in his home, 1696 Clover Street. He was 68. Mr. Neff worked in his office at 45 Exchange Street as usual Saturday, but complained of a slight illness in the early evening. His wife found him dead in bed at 3 a.m. Doctors said death was caused by a heart attack.

Mr. Neff came to Rochester 10 years ago as an efficiency engineer representing the Metropolitan Trust Company of New York. He worked with a local company in financial difficulties. He remained in Rochester working with various banks in straightening out financial troubles of industrial and commercial concerns.

Born in Dover, N. J., Mr. Neff attended grade schools there and was graduated from Lafayette College in the class of 1888 as a civil engineer.

Mr. Neff was a member of the Rochester Club and president of the Lafayette alumni of Rochester.

He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Pauline Bunting Neff. Prayer services will be conducted in the home tomorrow evening at 7:30 o'clock. Burial will be in Rockaway, N. J., cemetery plot where six generations of his family have been buried.

Democrat and Chronicle, Rochester NY, Mon. 24 Dec 1934

Industrial Engineer Dies

Rochester, N. Y., Dec. 24.—(AP)—Funeral services will be held tomorrow for Stewart M. Neff, 68, industrial engineer credited with building the first high pressure water system used by New York City. Mr. Neff was a trustee of St. Lawrence University Divinity School. Burial will be in Rockaway, N.J.

Citizen-Advertiser, Auburn NY, Mon. 24 Dec 1934

[Neff, Stewart M.]

Stewart M. Neff

The sudden death of Stewart M. Neff early Sunday morning, December 23rd, brought a deep sense of personal loss to all who knew him. As a member of our Board of Trustees he proved invaluable by reason of his wise counsel, broad experience and utter devotion. To the Canton Theological School of the St. Lawrence University, of which he was also a trustee, he gave himself with the same zeal and loyalty. Beyond all this, however, is what he meant to us as a man and a personal friend. At the services in his memory on Christmas night, Mr. [Charles Clare] Blauvelt paid him the following brief tribute:

"Mr. Neff once said to me that no man is ever indispensable, for another always appears to take the place of one who has stepped out. Perhaps—but in the church he claimed as his own and which was proud to claim him as its own, the place of Stewart Neff will be extremely difficult to fill. Few surpass his practical knowledge, his sound judgment and uncommon common sense, his initiative and zealous devotion to any assignment given him.

"But none of us can or will forget those qualities which endeared him to us. I have heard some speak of Mr. Neff and blunt and gruff. They did not know him! Beneath that stern exterior, which I often suspected was more assumed than natural, lay a warmhearted and simple kindness that marked the true man. For his was the winsome spirit of a child, which inevitably overflowed, soon or late, in some mischievous prank or delightful humor. But he was a man, too, of upright and noble character, fair-minded, charitable in his judgment of others, of sympathetic understanding, ever ready to serve a fellowman in need.

"We may be deprived of his physical presence, but what he was, what he meant to us, is ours to cherish so long as we live. Nothing can rob us of that!"

Our Outlook, First Universalist Church, Rochester NY, January 1935

Transcribed on 2 Sep 2012 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY

[Neff, Stewart M.]

STEWART M. NEFF

The sudden death of Stewart M. Neff of Rochester, in the early morning hour of December 23, was a shock to everybody who knew him. He and Mrs. Neff spent the previous evening hanging Christmas greens and addressing packages. He complained of indigestion at the hour of retiring and home remedies were employed. At 2 A.M., Mr. Neff left this mortal scene in his 68th year.

He was born in Dover, N.J., attended its schools and was graduated from Lafayette College in 1888, a civil engineer. He identified himself immediately with business and some thirty years of his life were spent in New York City. Here he became identified with the Church of Divine Paternity [Fourth Universalist] during the pastorate of the Rev. Dr. Frank Oliver Hall. He was connected with the erection of the first high pressure water system used in New York City.

Ten years ago, he located in Rochester as an efficiency engineer with the Metropolitan Trust Company of New York and has [had] since been connected with various local banks in solving the financial difficulties of industrial and commercial organizations. He was a member of the Rochester Club and president of the Lafayette Alumni Association. Business associates regarded him as a man of absolute integrity and trustworthiness.

In the First Universalist Church, Rochester, he was always ready to serve. As a member of the board of trustees, he was invaluable by reason of his wide experience and good judgment. For the past three years he was a trustee of the Theological School of St. Lawrence University and was interested in every phase of the school's life.

From the Rev. C. C. [Charles Clare] Blauvelt, pastor, comes the following tribute: "Poor men, down and outers, forgotten men, these Mr. Neff found and helped. A tenant in a building which he supervised for a bank, who was a hard-boiled auctioneer and second-hand dealer, with tears coursing down his cheeks, told Mrs. Neff that next to Moses her husband was the greatest man he knew. Youngsters in our church, hearing of his death at their dinner-tables, cried with broken hearts. At the Thanksgiving Bazaar he spent most of the evening with them at the fish-pond, giving them the nickels so that they could drop their lines for the presents. He knew how to be all things to all men. His going, to me, seems as if some familiar mountain on the horizon had suddenly caved in and disappeared from my sight, leaving a terrific emptiness."

The memorial service was conducted by Mr. Blauvelt in the Neff home on the evening of December 25, with burial in the family plot at Rockaway, N.J. He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Pauline B. Neff.

Empire State Universalist, Cortland NY, January 1935