

[Sanders, Chauncey K.]

C. K. SAUNDERS, FOUNDER OF THE NEWS, DIES AT HIS HOME HERE

Death Followed Illness of Two Weeks from Neuralgia of the Heart—
Funeral Largely Attended at Sanders Home Yesterday

Chauncey K. Sanders, founder of The Nunda News, and one of the most prominent and widely known citizens of Livingston county, died at his home here Monday night at 11:45, death being due to neuralgia of the heart. Mr. Sanders leaves three children, Mrs. Frank S. Thomas of Rochester; C. K. Sanders, Jr. of Chicago, and Walter B. Sanders, editor and proprietor of The Nunda News. Mrs. Sanders died April (?), 1912, and a son, Harry, July 3, 1880. Mr. Saunders also leaves 11 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

The funeral was held Thursday afternoon at 2 o'clock from the Sanders homestead, Rev. Clara Morgan of Perry, and Rev. L. R. Lowry of Nunda, officiating and burial was made on the family lot in Oakwood cemetery.

Chauncey K. Saunders was born at Pavilion, Genesee county, October 27th, 1837, the son of Benjamin and Huldah Knapp Sanders; there were four children, Pamela Jane, who died in 1860; Alanson Kelsey, who died in 1866, George A., who died in 1912 and Chauncey K. Mr. Sanders came to Nunda 60 years ago, on October 1, 1859 and founded the newspaper and he was actively connected with the business during all of these years. He served as Postmaster in Nunda under the administrations of Presidents Lincoln, Hayes and Arthur and was commissioned as a First Lieutenant in the 58th Regiment, New York State National Guards by Governor Horatio Seymour in 1863, the first military organization in Nunda. The regiment was called out and sworn into the United States service in August, 1864, doing guard duty over 16,000 rebel prisoners, with other service. Mr. Sanders was a charter member of Craig W. Wadsworth Post and served three terms as commander.

For many years he had been actively identified with the Livingston County Historical Society, the Child Welfare Board of Livingston county, of which he was chairman, and the Bell Memorial Library of this village. He organized the Livingston County Press Association and served as its first president in 1893 and in 1914 with Major H. A. Dudley of Warsaw, and Mr. A. O. Bunnell of Dansville, organized the William Pryor Letchworth Memorial Association and served as secretary and treasurer since its organization.

In 1880 Mr. Sanders erected The News building which has been the home of this paper since that date and where, bound in yearly volumes, are copies of The Nunda News since 1859, which form a complete local history of Nunda. The aim of Mr. Sanders and the object of The Nunda News, through all of the years of its existence, has been "to advance the best interests of the people of this locality and to provide them with a local newspaper that would be a credit to the place in which it was published," and the writers believes if those men who (?) its establishment back in fifty-nine could be heard, they would say their wishes have been more than realized.

[Sanders, Chauncey K.]

Mr. Sanders was first taken ill Friday morning, Sept. 5th, he remained at home thruout that day but was at his office the following day and was out and around on Sunday. [On] Sunday night, Sept. 7th, he suffered a severe attack of neuralgia of the heart and was confined to his home until the time of his death. A trained nurse was constantly in attendance; Mr. Ostrander saw Mr. Sanders several times each day and Dr. Diefenbach was called in consultation Thursday, Sept. 18th.

In his death, the people of Nunda mourn the loss of a neighbor and friend. His character is his monument. For over half a century he had lived here and took a lively interest in everything concerning Nunda. Coming over the hill from Dansville to Nunda before the Civil war broke out, he brought along all of his possessions in a one horse lumber wagon; those were in the days of the old canal. Oscar Woodruff, the present editor of the Dansville Express, came along with him and the two "worked off" the editions of The News on a Washington hand (?) press day, remaining up all night to complete the job. Mr. Sanders was a forceful editorial writer, a man of sound judgment and he enjoyed life as he went along. He was widely known and respected as a newspaperman all over the state, and was one of the few remaining of the old time newspaper men. He loved his work; type, ink and paper were his friends and he was always in the office Friday mornings to get one of the first copies of the paper off the press.

During his illness Mr. Sanders suffered an attack of neuralgia of the heart almost every day, but within a short time afterwards was quite like himself, although preferring to be quiet with little desire to (?), especially the last three days preceding his death. He suffered a bad spell Monday morning but shortly after noon commenced to gain (?). He read the evening papers Monday night and retired early, sleeping soundly until quarter of twelve, when he passed on without awakening. His daughter, Mrs. Frank S. Thomas of Rochester, and his son, C. K. Sanders, Jr., of Chicago, with his son W. B. were with him during his illness and assisted in taking care of him.

Funeral was Largely Attended Thursday Afternoon

Friends and relatives came from far and near to pay their last tribute of respect; every seat in the house was occupied and many were standing outside when the services commenced. Rev. L. R. Lowry, pastor of the Nunda Universalist church spoke first and was followed by Rev. Clara Morgan pastor of the Perry Universalist church; both paid fine tributes to Mr. Sanders. Prayer was then offered by Rev. Morgan which concluded the services at the house. G.A.R. Post No. 417 attended the services in a body and conducted the services at the grave; the Woman's Relief Corps also attended as a body and six members of the American Legion, in uniform, acted as an escort to the remains. The casket was draped with an American flag and banked with beautiful flowers of all kinds sent by loving friends. Following the service conducted by the Grand Army at the grave, the benediction was pronounced by Rev. Lowry.

[A long list of people who attended from out of town is omitted here.]

[Sanders, Chauncey K.]

Was Active Up Until the Last—Plans Made for Birthday Dinner

Mr. Sanders attended the Rochester horse show this season, remaining in Rochester Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, and was taken ill the next morning after his return home. He had arrangements all completed to give a dinner at the Hotel Rochester, to his children and his grandchildren, Oct. 27th next, on the occasion of his 82d birthday and was looking forward to the event with much pleasure, discussing details of the affair up to as late as seven o'clock Monday evening, less than five hours previous to his death. From early afternoon, until he retired at 9:30 Monday evening, Mr. Sanders rested comfortably and was in no pain whatever; he seemed stronger than he had for several days, sitting up in a chair most of the time; he was kept very quiet and was not encouraged to talk much. He called his son W. B. in about 6:30 and asked that some souvenir photographs he had arranged for in Rochester for his birthday dinner be looked after; he also wanted to make sure the petition be circulated for the library in time so that taxpayers might vote on it in November; he asked to have one or two business errands done and said he felt sure he would be nearly well the next day. His daughter and the nurse spent the balance of the evening with him, during which time he read the evening newspapers, retiring at about 9:45, feeling more like himself than he had for the three previous days. He was asleep within a few minutes and did not awaken again and at 11:45, two hours later, had passed on without having changed his position in bed since retiring.

Few men are alive to-day who were in business here at the time Mr. Sanders established The Nunda News in fifty-nine. He had lived in the house where he died for fifty-six years and it seemed fitting that the funeral services be held there, although kind friends suggested it be held from the Universalist church, of which society Mr. Sanders had been a life member. As a mark of respect to Mr. Sanders the business places in Nunda were all closed Thursday afternoon during the funeral.

The Nunda News, Nunda NY, Sat. 27 Sep 1919
[some abridging]

Transcribed on 24 Dec 2010 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY