

[Smith, Marcus D.]

Sudden Death of an Old Resident
The Lifeless Body of Captain Marcus D. Smith Found in His Yard
--Heart Disease the Cause.

Our community was shocked on Sunday morning by the report that Capt. Marcus D. Smith was dead, and that his lifeless remains had been discovered in the yard, where they had remained all night. The story was too true. Heart disease had been the cause of the captain's sudden death, and he was attacked by the disease while he was alone, with no friendly hand to assist him or give an alarm that he might be carried into his house. He had expired in the yard only a few feet from his door, falling upon the snow and mud of the path.

He was discovered by James Barnard about 8:50 a.m. Sunday. Barnard and Amos Robbins were at the house, where the evidences went to show something was wrong. The door was unlocked, the bed had not been occupied and the coal fire had gone out. When found the deceased lay on his right side and under him a tin pail with which he had evidently started for his poultry house. The pail showed bruises from the sudden fall when death overtook the captain. His watch was ticking when the body was found. Mr. Smith had lain all through the night where he fell.

Coroner Traver was summoned but decided an inquest unnecessary, as the cause of death was heart failure, with which the deceased had long complained.

Captain Marcus D. Smith was the son of Septimus and Clarissa Smith and was born at Wells, Rutland county, Vt., in February, 1817, and was therefore in his 79th year. He came to Perry when a mere child and has ever since resided here except a few years from 1850 to 1854, when he was a conductor on the N. Y. C. railroad. In 1841 he married Miss Caroline O. Graham of Perry, by whom he had two sons and two daughters. Mrs. J. S. Garrison and Mr. Lute [Edward L.] Smith are the sole survivors, one son and one daughter, the late Mrs. L. A. [Fannie] Macomber, and his wife, being dead. Since the death of the latter Mr. Smith has lived alone in his home.

In 1855, during the great "snake" excitement, Captain Smith had a refreshment stand at the lake, and from him came the first suggestion which eventually resulted in making Silver Lake a great popular resort. In the year 1860 he built a hotel at Silver Lake, which is now part of the Saxton House. He also for several years conducted a grocery in this village. Of late years he has given his time to boat building and the purchase of furs. Of a kindly disposition, with a mind stored with useful knowledge, for he was a close reader and student of history, he proved a genial and entertaining companion to a large circle of friends. In politics he had been a Democrat, but of late years took but small interest in political affairs of the day. His familiar figure will be much missed in the village and at the lake, where he was pleasantly known by hundreds of summer visitors.

The funeral was held at 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, from his late residence, and was largely attended by relatives and citizens. The services were impressively conducted by Rev. Charles Palmatier of the Universalist church.

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