

[Stone, Henry]

THE DROWNING OF HENRY STONE

On Thursday of last week W. H. Mills received a dispatch stating that Henry Stone of this place had been drowned at Tonawanda, on the previous night, in the [Erie] canal. John C. Coe, a nephew, started immediately for the place and returned the following day with the remains. Henry left this place the Monday before, saying that he was going West, his friends supposing he was going to Michigan. He went to Rochester and thence to Tonawanda, where he arrived sometime on Wednesday. During the evening he was in a saloon, where he remained in company with two other fellows until about midnight, when the proprietor said, "Boys, you will have to get out for I am going to close up." Henry inquired if he could not get lodging for the night and was told they had no accommodations, but was told where they could be found. He started for the hotel across the canal, while his companions went in another direction. Not but a few moments from the time of their separation a scream and a splashing of water was heard. The two men spoken of hastened to the bridge, where they found his hat floating in the canal, but hearing no more noise made no further search until morning, when the body was found in about four feet of water. It is thought by some that he walked off the abutment of the bridge, it being very dark and there was no railing, and the fall, which was about twelve feet, stunned him, thus causing him to be drowned; while others suspect foul play, as only two cents were found upon his person, while it is known that he had more than money enough to take him to Michigan. He was about forty years of age and unmarried. He served three years in the late [Civil] war in the 27th N. Y. Volunteers and also in the 1st Veteran's Cavalry. For eleven months he was a prisoner, a part of that time in Andersonville. The funeral was held at the residence of his sister, Mrs. Alta [Stone] Coe¹, on Saturday last at one o'clock, the Rev. Asa Saxe [Universalist] of Rochester officiating, and the remains were interred in the Arnold cemetery of this village. The bearers were James Conlon, Henry Timbrooks, Joseph Orr, Wm. Williston, Wm. Palen and Wm. Harrison, all of whom were soldiers. M. G. Conesus Center, April 11th.

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Transcribed on 5 Feb 2024 by Karen E. Dau of East Rochester, NY

¹ She was John C. Coe's mother and the widow of George F. Coe. This was a Universalist family.