

[Van Etta, Alfred]

Alfred Van Etta

Alfred Van Etta, 75, for many years a resident of Fort Plain, died Friday morning at 1:52 at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Clifford Pickard. Mr. Van Etta had lived for the past nine years on West street and was removed to the home of his daughter [on Crouse St.] a few days before his death. He had been in poor health for some time and had been seriously ill since the first part of December.

Alfred Van Etta was born May 10, 1857 in the town of Canajoharie, a son of Lewis and Mary Wiles Van Etta. For a number of years he was one of the River street lift bridge operators, when the old Erie canal was in existence. For the past few years he had been a lock operator at the Barge canal lock in Fort Plain. He retired from the position last fall. In politics he was a Democrat.

When workmen were tearing out the old aqueduct in the Erie canal in the village when the Erie canal closed, Mr. Van Etta was caught by a falling timber and had his right leg badly injured, the injury confining him to the Amsterdam hospital for months.

Mr. Van Etta is survived by his wife [Alice Coleman Van Etta]; two daughters, Mrs. Harry J. Van Burren of St. Johnsville and Mrs. Clifford Pickard of Fort Plain; three grandchildren, Lola Cross of St. Johnsville and Marna and Fane May Pickard of Fort Plain; one sister, Mrs. Charles Scott of Schenectady; several nieces and nephews.

A prayer service was held Monday at 2 p.m from the home of his daughter, and the funeral services at 2:30 from the Catherine Nellis Memorial chapel, Rev. Rufus H. Dix [Universalist] officiating. Interment was made in the Fort Plain cemetery.

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