

[Wood, John O.]

GAS POISON FATAL TO RETIRED FARMER

John O. Wood, 78, Formerly of German Flats, Found in Step-son's Kitchen

Oneida, March 14 — John O. Wood, 78, a retired German Flats, Town of Little Falls, Herkimer County farmer, ended his life by inhaling gas late Wednesday in the kitchen of the home of Ordis Hooper, 522 Fitch St., a step son.

Coroner Lee S. Preston said today death was due to carbon monoxide poisoning. The official added Wood did not leave any notes, nor could his step-son advance any reason for the elderly man's motives, since he was in good health.

Wood was in good spirits when Hooper left for Oneidacraft, Inc., where he is employed as a fireman at 7 p.m. yesterday. Upon his return at midnight he found Wood sitting in a chair next to the open gas jet. The pipe extends through the floor from the cellar.

When efforts to arouse Wood failed, Hooper called the police.

Capt. Henry Saamer assigned Patrolmen William Culley and William H. Kaier, and upon their arrival at City Hospital, Wood was pronounced dead.

Wood was born in Wayne County, but he operated a farm in German Flats, south side of the Mohawk River for many years. He was regarded as a leading farm industrialist, and participated in many agricultural programs.

He was twice married. His second wife, Mrs. Phoebe Talmadge Wood, died a year ago. Wood had spent part of the time with a step-daughter, Mrs. T. J. Murphy, 273 Otsego St., Ilion, and also with Hooper since the death of his wife. Wood was a member of the Little Falls Universalist Church.

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Transcribed on 28 Jul 2012 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY