

[Youker, John H.]

John H. Youker, Oppenheim, Takes Own Life

John H. Youker, 51, of the Oppenheim-Inghams Mills Road, Town of Oppenheim, was found dead in the bedroom of his home late Tuesday afternoon by his son, Frank, sometime after the latter had returned from a trip to Dolgeville where he had taken other members of the family on a shopping trip.

A .22 caliber rifle and notes found near the body indicated that Mr. Youker had carefully planned to take his own life while other members of his family were away. It was said that he recently had suffered from despondency because he had two sons in the armed forces and feared that he was about to lose the third by induction into the Army.

In one of the notes he had written, he instructed his son to notify Claude Jacobson, undertaker, of Dolgeville and to instruct Jacobson to arrange for a simple prayer service and for the cremation of his body.

Jacobson summoned Dr. S. G. Calder, coroner, of Johnstown, who, after an investigation, pronounced the case a suicide and authorized the removal of the body to the Jacobson Funeral Home, Dolgeville.

Mr. Youker was born April 9, 1893, in the Town of Oppenheim, son of Mrs. Florence Vedder Youker and the late Judd Youker. He had resided in the Town of Oppenheim all his life, where he conducted a dairy farm. On December 24, 1915, he married Birdella Allen in St. Johnsville. He was a veteran of World War I, having served six years with the rank of staff sergeant.

Besides his wife and mother, he leaves three sons, Theodore John, a member of the Air Corps, somewhere in the Pacific; Allen J. P., serving with the infantry in Germany, and Judson Frank, at home; two brothers, Fay and Roy, both of Oppenheim.

A prayer service will be held at eight o'clock tonight in the Jacobson Funeral Home, Dolgeville. The Rev. C. [Clinton] A. Moulton of the Universalist Church will officiate. The body will be taken to Troy for cremation Friday.

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