

Obituaries With Stories to Tell

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Do you have an interesting obituary you would like to share? Send it to me at paulagoblirsch@gmail.com. Include the name of the newspaper and the publication date.

Submitted by Ronald F. Eustice.

CALLED TO HIS FINAL HOME

Mr. John Eustice Died Suddenly at His Home in This Place between the Hours of One and Two O'clock Wednesday, A.M.

FUNERAL SATURDAY MORNING.

In a measure the circumstances attending the death of Mr. John Eustice, one of our most highly honored citizens, who passed away between the hours of one and two o'clock in the morning on Thursday, are truly pathetic.

Mr. Eustice had been in fairly good health during the spring months despite his advanced age. On Wednesday he gave no token of approaching illness and as usual attended to the matter of home life: and its details, his last work being performed about sundown in his garden. Here he talked with his wife and neighbors, exhibiting to a marked degree that spirit of buoyancy, congeniality and good will that was a characteristic of his life. In this spirit he retired for the night. At eleven o'clock he appeared as cheerful as well as in the early evening hours. Later at night the heavy wind and rain awakened Mrs. Eustice who arose to close the windows. She spoke to her husband as

he made no response she inferred he was asleep after closing the windows she laid down beside him but presently discovered from the coldness of his hands that all was not well. He did not answer her questions and hoping against hope she immediately went to the home of Mr. Scott, a nearby neighbor for help. Mr. and Mrs. Scott accompanied her to the room when they found the good man had passed away. Mr. Scott then notified the sons who reside in town, and they were soon at the home.

His last words were uttered about eleven o'clock when he called to his wife and said: "Mother, are you all right"?

Mr. Eustice was born on January 6th, 1832 at Ballymane, (*Ballymahon*) County Longford, Ireland. His age was 84 years, 5 months and 23 days. At the age of fourteen he came to America and resided four years with an aunt at Schuylerville, New York. Later he came west and settled at Mapleton, Waukesha County, Wisconsin where he resided with his father until the latter's death. On March 19th, 1863, he was married to Miss Annie Jewison. After his marriage he went with his wife to Marquette, Michigan where they remained five years and where he was foreman in the mines. From this place -- he came directly to Minnesota, settling on the farm in Janesville township where they resided 47 years. A few years ago, they left the farm and came to Janesville where they have since resided.

We wish to pay more than a mere passing tribute to the life and character of Mr. Eustice. Everybody in this vicinity knew Mr. Eustice and all were counted his friends. He had no enemies. Whether his friends resided here or elsewhere they knew him to be a man in every sense that the name implies,

walk me through the record repository, prior to my conducting the specific research.

Rose's final chapter, "Strategies That Work," focuses on examples of problem-solving analysis. Once you've uncovered those family courthouse documents, you'll need to extract every useful tidbit of information from them. Rose shows how, in chapter 12, and throughout this gem of a guide.

As excellent as Rose's *Guide* is, you'll want to supplement it with Arlene H. Eakle's superb chapter on "Research in Court Records" in *The Source*. Other chapters in this essential general guidebook, especially those on vital records and on land and tax records, may be helpful, but Eakle's will be most useful. In particular, she significantly supplements Rose in the following: outlining the course of different types of legal cases together with detailed examples of a civil case, equity case, and criminal case; providing numerous examples of different types of court documents; and including a number of useful charts, e.g., "Ages of Legal Action" for some 26 different legal actions.

While Rose and Eakle will provide you with a good idea of what you may find at a county courthouse, their lists do not necessarily provide you with a comprehensive list. Since every courthouse is different in terms of what documents have been filed, and of

those, what has been saved, no general list will ever be complete. However, the guide to Essex County, New York's genealogical and family history resources does at least briefly sample *all* the holdings of the county's Clerk's Office and Surrogate's Court. Every volume and group of loose papers was examined and their contents briefly described. This will give you an excellent idea of the wide variety of documents that may await an exhaustive visit to a county courthouse.

Rose and Eakle reproduce a nice sample of indexes and documents, but their selections, while representative, do not cover *all* the different types of indexes and documents. William H. Graver's guide does just that for one county's Recorder's Office. For Hamilton County, Ohio he reproduces an example of indexes and documents for the following: powers of attorney; veterans' discharge papers; cemetery lots and maps; wills; aid-for-the-aged liens; deeds; leases; registered lands; mortgages; mechanics liens; releases; church, club, and business organization papers; unemployment compensation liens; lien documents from government agencies; financing statements; and maps. Graver does not just reproduce an index or document, but attaches comments to guide the user's understanding of an index's organization or a document's contents. This guide deserves to be part of every genealogical educational collection.

a man who never uttered words derogatory to any person and who ever extolled the virtues of others; a man whose genial disposition and sunny smiles were pregnant with blessings to mankind, a man whose honesty was never questioned and whose motives were never impugned, in fact a man whose loyalty to his convictions and fidelity to his friends and his faith are lasting monuments to the goodness of the life he lived. Such a life is worthy of highest encomiums that word or pen may bestow and that they are not exaggerated nor overdrawn is abundantly reflected in his life and career

Mr. Eustice is survived by, his widow and one daughter and six sons, Mrs. D. E. Hogan of St. Paul, James of Alton, John D. of Janesville; Chris, of Waldorf, Thomas of Janesville township, William, of Jackson, George, of Janesville. He is also survived by other relatives, nephews and nieces here and elsewhere.

The funeral was conducted Saturday morning at nine o'clock at St. Ann's Catholic Church in this place, of which the deceased was a devout member. Rev. Father McCarthy, officiated. The remains were laid to rest in the Catholic Cemetery. A very large concourse of people were present at the funeral attesting their high regard, their love, and respect for the good man who is thus called to his eternal home.

The ARGUS extends its sympathy and condolences with many others to the bereaved widow and children.

Janesville (MN) Argus, Wednesday July 5, 1916.

Janesville, Minn. Sep 30, 03

Dear Cousin¹:

You may be sure I was delighted to get a letter from you it was so unexpected as I had written so many letters + didn't get an answer. I gave up writing till I met this lady + she came from the same place² + could tell me so much about the people I asked her to write + she did³. I was so glad I cried. If I live + nothing happens I will come and see you next yr, 43 years⁴ is a long time + I have not seen any of my people in that length of time. My dear father⁵ was killed by a tree falling on him soon after I got to him in Wis, at that time they used to have chopping bees + I was invited to go but he was afraid I would get hurt so he went + got killed but he didn't die till he had the priest. I was left alone then + what he left I soon went through⁶. I got married in 1863⁷ + have 6 sons + 1 daughter all living near me. We lost one boy when a baby, but have 6 living. My daughter⁸ is the oldest she is 38 yrs. She married a man by the name of Dennis Hogan + lives near us he is a cattle buyer they are in good circumstances she has 3 children living + 3 dead My oldest son James⁹ is a farmer he rents but owns 40 acres of his own cattle, horses etc. he is a good Christian + a good son. John¹⁰ is living in town he runs an engine + has some money at int. Chris¹¹ runs a farm of his wife's fathers. Tom¹² runs a creamery in Janesville + get 80 per mo. Will¹³ is a butter maker + runs a creamery too + the baby¹⁴ was married in Sep. he stays at home + works the farm. They are all married and living near me + doing well. I own 80 acres of land¹⁵, a good home in it + lots of cows pigs etc. Everything I have worked hard for I never earnt a nickel only by hard work but with God's help I will see you before I die I

am sorry your health is so poor. I do hope to see you once more. Was sorry to hear your wife¹⁶ died am glad your son takes care of you. I want to know where Aunt Bridget¹⁷ is + Mrs. Flood¹⁸ or Mary Carroll¹⁹. Where is Mary²⁰ (.) Patrick²¹ + Annn²² + all the rest write + tell me about them + Bob Cooney²³ + Uncle John²⁴ I suppose he is dead long ago. My health is quite good but I can't do any hard work now²⁵-I am pretty well broke down I am going to send you a family picture taken 3 years ago. My sons are all big strong men + my daughter is 5 ft 8 in. I have 14 grandchildren living + several dead. My wife²⁶ was a good hard working woman she is younger than I am she will be 57 in January. My farm is 3 miles from Janesville, Minn²⁷, a town of 1400 inhabitants. How I wish you could come + see me you would be very welcome. Write soon + often to your long lost cousin.

Signed

John Eustis Sr.²⁸

Janesville, Waseca Co. Minn.

Footnotes

(Comments by Ronald F. Eustice):

1. The letter is addressed to Thomas Eustis (c1823-1905) of Victory Mills, NY. Thomas was John's first cousin. Thomas Eustis was the son of Patrick Eustace of Townland Collum, Parish Cashel, Ireland. Patrick was a brother to James Eustace, Bridget Eustace and John Eustace who are mentioned later in the letter. Patrick married Catherine Cunningham (c1802-1885) during the 1820s.
2. The "same place" could be Schuylerville/Victory Mills, Saratoga, NY or the Parishes of Cashel and Shrule in County Longford, Ireland. Many natives of Cashel and Shrule settled at Schuylerville after the Great Famine of 1846-1849.
3. I believe that the letter actually was written by John Eustis and that a separate letter was written by the unidentified lady encouraging Thomas to respond to John's previously unanswered letters.

4. This statement is confusing. John arrived in Schuylerville from Ireland in 1850. Had the last contact been made 43 years previously as John indicates, that would have been in 1860. Aunt Bridget referred to late in the letter died in 1854 and John did not know of her death. John also writes about his own father's accidental death which occurred in March 1855. Had previous contact been made about 1860, John would not have needed to inform Thomas of his father's death, he would have known about it.

5. John's father was James Eustace born about 1797. He was killed on March 27, 1855 and is buried in St. Catherine's Roman Catholic Cemetery in rural Mapleton, Oconomowoc, Wisconsin. James was married on 1829 at Longford to Bridget Kennedy.

6. James died intestate leaving possessions of the probable value of \$200 to his son John, who had been appointed administrator of the estate. No other heirs are mentioned in the Petition for Administration which was filed January 5, 1857, and published in the Waukesha County Plain Dealer. The hearing was held in Oconomowoc on March 2, 1857 at 1:00 P.M. by Waukesha County Judge Martin Field.

7. John Eustis married Ann Jewison at St. Catherine's Catholic Church in Mapleton on March 19, 1863. Ann was born in Kingston-upon-Hull, Yorkshire and was the daughter of Christopher Jewison and Mary White.

8. Mary Eustice was born at Mapleton on October 24, 1865. She married Dennis Hogan at Janesville, Minnesota on October 26, 1885.

9. James Eustice (1867-1950) farmed in Alton Township, Waseca County, Minnesota. He married Cathrine Hogan on November 10, 1891.

10. John Daniel Eustice was born at Janesville, Minnesota in 1869. He married Florence Mae Sill on April 13, 1898. John died March 10, 1963 in Farmington, Michigan at the age of 94.

11. Christopher Eustice was born in 1872 and died at Faribault, Minnesota on January 29, 1951. He married Winifred Ford on June 1, 1903.

12. Thomas Eustice was born September 25, 1874 and died June 15, 1966. He married Ellen Caahill on November 20, 1900.

13. William Eustice was born October 10, 1876 and died March 7, 1952. He married Mary Wheelock on August 17, 1898.

14. George Eustice was born May 11, 1882 and died October 2, 1949. He married Bertha Sill on September 1, 1903.

15. John purchased 80 acres in Section 14 of Janesville Township. Additional 80 acres in Section 23