

1917

OBITUARY

A. A. Casler was born in Cold Spring, New York, on February 6th, 1841. At the early age of ten years he was left an orphan.

He enlisted in Randolph, New York, for service in the civil war. He fought in the army of the Potomac and the army of the Cumberland and was in many of the hardest battles of the war. One of the most bitter experiences of his soldier career was a term spent in Libby prison. A serious attack of typhoid fever and subsequent exposure made further service impossible and Mr. Casler was mustered out in 1863.

A number of years were spent in mercantile business in New York and another period was spent as a manufacturer in Binghamton, New York.

For ten years he was superintendent of a mining company which operated in California.

Mr. and Mrs. Casler came to Loudonville on September 1st, 1911. For about two years Mr. Casler was able to engage actively in business, that of making cheap gloves, but for the last four years he had been in declining health.

Before going to California Mr. Casler united with the Presbyterian church in Mansfield and after locating in Loudonville he renewed his covenant of faith, and united with the Presbyterian church here on April 26th, 1914. For the last two years declining health kept Mr. Casler at home most of the time. After months of intense suffering death came to his relief on Friday evening, August 24th. He had reached the age of 76 years, 6 months and 18 days.

Private funeral services, participated in by Fisher Post, G. A. R., were held at the family home on North Water street, Sunday afternoon, conducted by his pastor, Rev. Ira L. Myers. The remains were taken to Randolph, New York, for interment leaving here on train No. 117 Sunday afternoon.

This obituary was handed down by family members, but the name of the newspaper was never given. I assume that the obituary was in the local newspaper in Loudonville, Ohio, and that he died in Loudonville.

Some of the information is not correct about his stay in the Army. Although he may have been in some of the hardest battles of the war, he was not in Libby Prison or other prisons, etc. The person (his second wife?) who wrote the obituary probably got mixed up with information about his older brother B. Giles Casler, who is known to have been in prison camps during the Civil War. Also, I think that he was younger than 10 when left an orphan. Again, probably talking about his older brother Giles.

My aunt Alberta Harris (Casler) told me that when she was a girl, she went to his funeral in Randolph, NY. She went with other family members by train from Jamestown, NY. She also remembered him coming to visit once at Jamestown, when he was older. The other information about his life after the war seems to be correct. He did spend several years in California (at Big Pine) at a gold mine, as did other family members, including his sons Alonzo Casler, Jr. and Glenn Casler. They did not come back rich, however. My uncle Chester told me that most of the gold had already been dug out by the time they arrived. Uncle Chester was born at Big Pine. He went back there many years later to visit (in the 60's or 70's) and the Indian woman who helped deliver him was still alive at that time.

At Cold Spring, most family members (like other families) were associated with the lumber industry. When all the big trees were gone, they moved a little farther west to Penn. and Ohio States. Alonzo I lived in several cities, and also worked on ships on the Great Lakes – not mentioned in the obituary.

I am also not sure about the other information, that he had typhoid fever and was mustered out of service in 1963. I do know that both he and his brother Giles Casler came home from the war together. Sarah, their youngest sister remembered well when they came home together. Giles wore a hat because he had no hair on his head, and they both had full beards. This is information given to me in 1995 by Mrs. Peters (at age 83), who knew Sarah well, when she (Mrs. Peters) was young. Aunt Sarah lived to be in her 90's, and my parents also remembered visiting her when they were younger.

Clark L. Casler, 20 August 2010

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