

Ellicottville

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Hon. C.P. Vedder

The honorable Commodore Perry Vedder died Sturday afternoon, December 24 at the Hotel Majestic, New York City where he and his wife made their home during the winter months. His last illness was of only a few hours duration, death being from heart failure.

Mr. Vedder was a life-long resident of Ellicottville. His early life was spent here, and in later years, when business interests compelled his spending much time away, he spent his summers here, where he had his residence. His first wife died here some 26 years ago, and his only son, John, some years previously, both of them being laid to rest in Sunset Hill cemetery. Mr. Vedder was born in 1828 being 72 years old at the time of his death. His second wife survives him.

The funeral was held on Monday from the Hotel Majestic, conducted by the Rev. Dr. Houghton of the Little Church Around the Corner. The body was then brought here, and on Tuesday afternoon, a short prayer service was held at the house by the Rev. George Sorner of Franklinville. Burial in Sunset Hill cemetery.

The Buffalo Courier says of Mr. Vedder "He was a big man in the politics of Western New York 20 years ago. His most important public service - that which lasted longest and won his most fame - was in the state senate from 1884 to 1891, where he represented the Chautauqua-Cattaraugus district. He had previously served a term in 1876-77 and had served three terms in the assembly from Cattaraugus county from 1872-1875. He entered the ^{senate} for the second time, therefore, was well trained in the ways of legislation, and he received prompt recognition as a leader among the Republicans, who were in the majority. The inheritance tax was one of the important acts to his credit and he claimed credit for one of the earliest laws requiring corporations to pay for organizing in this state. While in the assembly he was chairman of the committee appointed to draft articles of impeachment against Judge Barnard of Tweed-ring notoriety.

After he returned to the senate he served in the constitution convention of 1894 and took a leading part in its work. He was state assessor from 1880 to 1883 and held various local offices before he entered the Assembly.

"While his name was Commodore Perry Vedder, he was entitled to call himself colonel, having risen to the rank of lieutenant colonel in three years in very creditable war service. As a boy he worked on a farm, as a raftsman, and as a sailor, and was trying to earn an education when the war broke out. He left Springville academy to join the army. He was admitted to the bar after his return from the war. He gradually became connected with various business enterprises from which he gained considerable fortune".