

Van Vechten, Douw

Class of 1822.

From "Genealogical Records of the Van Vechtens".

Douw Van Vechten was born July 3 1800? son of Walter and Jane ( Fonda) Van Vechten. He died July 3 1838. He married Eveline Fost, who died July 25 1847. They had no children.

DOW VAN VECHTEN, 1822, of Cambridge, N.Y., was a member of the Philomathean Society. (Died: 1838)

Philomathean Catalogue 1830

DIED: In Hoosick, on the morning of the 4th inst., at the residence of his father-in-law, Gen. Fort, Dow Van Vechten, Esq., Counsellor at Law of this city, aged 37 years.

Troy Daily Whig  
July 5, 1838.

Death of Dow Van Vechten, Esq.

The death of Mr. Van Vechten, which was briefly announced in this paper yesterday, has saddened the hearts and awakened the liveliest sympathies of a numerous circle of friends and acquaintances in this city. To us, who have enjoyed the privilege of an uninterrupted social intercourse with him for years, and who have had an opportunity to know and properly estimate his excellent qualities of head and heart, the tidings of his decease--snatched away from us as he was, suddenly in the prime of life, by the mysterious dealings of an inscrutable Providence--excited the most poignant emotions of regret and sorrow; and we cannot allow the occasion to pass without an attempt to pay a slight tribute of respect to his memory.

Mr. Van Vechten was born in the town of Hoosick, in this county, and having determined in early life to enter the legal profession he commenced his preparatory studies at the Cambridge Washington Academy. At that early period of his life, and during his subsequent collegiate career at Union College, his pursuit of knowledge was ardent and enthusiastic--his talents were discovered to be of a high order--and his attainments were such as to entitle him to--and he accordingly graduated with--the highest honors of that celebrated Institution. His proficiency at college, as a belles lettres scholar, was most remarkable, and the productions of his pen at that period discover an intimate acquaintance with the elegant literature of ancient and modern times. We were fortunate enough to hear his oration at the Commencement when he graduated, and it was pronounced by some of the most intellectual among the audience as the most classic and polished effort delivered on that occasion; it was distinguished by all the good sense--the sound judgment--the fine imagination--the rich vein of humor--and the terse and graceful diction, which marked the writings of our lamented friend.

Immediately after leaving Union College, Mr. Van Vechten commenced the study of the law under the superintendance of the Hon. H. P. Hunt, of this city, who then resided at Pittstown in this county. But, in consequence of the delicate state of his health, impaired by too constant and severe application during his collegiate course, he was compelled on different occasions to suspend his legal studies. On being admitted to the bar he commenced the practice of his profession at Hoosick Falls, in this county, and afterwards removed to this city, where he has resided for the last nine years. His efforts at the bar were characterized by great sincerity, directness and point, and were highly creditable and finished specimens of forensic eloquence. In the practice of his profession, he was open, manly and straight-forward, and his legal advice was always honestly given and dictated by the pure benevolence of his heart. He despised trickery and detested the meanness, which legal chicanery sometimes employs to gain a temporary advantage over an opponent. In all his professional avocations he was distinguished by great shrewdness and penetration--by soundness of judgment--and purity of intention. He was a sound and able lawyer and most emphatically an honest man.

In closing this brief notice of <sup>the</sup> talents and character of our deceased friend we should do injustice to his memory were we to omit here a reference to his estimable qualities as a husband, companion and friend. So peculiar was he in these latter respects that he imparted a charm to every social circle he entered. His conversation was always original--seasoned with quaint humor--and marked by extensive knowledge of human nature, and close observation of men and the current events of his times; his attachments were strong and enduring; his private life was pure and exemplary; and his faults were, rather the native defects of his kind, than the artificial creations of his own nature.

His remains were conveyed to the tomb yesterday afternoon from the residence of his father-in-law, Gen. Fort, in Hoosick, and were attended by a large concourse of mourning relatives and friends.

Troy Daily Whig  
July 6, 1838.

At a Mayor's Court held at the Court House of the County of Rensselaer in and for the City of Troy on the 6th day of July, A.D., 1838.

Present--Hon. Henry W. Strong, Recorder.

Henry Z. Hayner, Esq., having announced to the Court the melancholy intelligence of the death of Dow Van Veghten, late a Member of the Bar of Rensselaer County. The Court, thereupon, immediately adjourned.

(A true copy of the minutes)

Henry R. Bristol, Clerk.

At a meeting of the Members of the Bar of Rensselaer County after the adjournment of the Troy Mayor's Court, on the 6th day of July, 1838, on occasion of the decease of Dow Van Veghten, Esq., late a Member of said Bar.

On motion of his Honor the Recorder, Job Pierson, Esq., was appointed Chairman and Henry T. Eddy, Esq., Secretary.

On Motion of H. Z. Hayner, Esq., preceded by appropriate remarks:

Resolved, That with feelings of the deepest regret, we have heard the mournful intelligence of the death of Dow Van Veghten, Esq., lately a highly beloved and respected Member of this Bar, that we sincerely sympathise with the family and friends of the deceased in this sad bereavement; and that as a mark of respect we wear the usual badge of mourning for thirty days.

On motion of F. N. Mann, Esq.,

Resolved, That a copy of the proceedings of this meeting be signed by the Chairman and Secretary, and so communicated to the family of the deceased.

On motion of M. I. Townsend, Esq.,

Resolved, That the proceedings of this meeting be published in the papers of this city.

Job Pierson, Chairman.

Henry T. Eddy, Secretary.

Troy Daily Whig  
July 6, 1838.

CLASS OF 1822.

DOW VAN VEGHTEN.

Died at Hoosick, on the 3rd inst at the residence of his father-in-law, (Gen. Fort), Dow Van Veghten, Esq., Attorney and Counsellor at Law of this city, aged 37 years.

The Troy Budget  
July 20, 1838

There is nearly a column in this paper in eulogy of Van Veghten, but nothing about his actual work or life.