

LAFAYETTE HEIDELL.

Death of One of Rochester's Best Known Men.

Lafayette Heidell, for many years a prominent character, died yesterday afternoon at his home, 17 North Union street, aged 62 years, and after an illness of six weeks. He was thought to be recovering when pneumonia set in. He leaves two sisters, Mrs. C. J. Wahlgren, of Chicago, and Mrs. Libby Hardy, of Boston.

"Pop" or "Lafe" Heidell, as he was familiarly called by his acquaintances, was famous in greenrooms, clubs and studios throughout the country and was the intimate friend of most of the great actors of the last three or four decades, none of whom failed to pay him a visit whenever in Rochester.

Heidell was an actor, reader, minstrel artist, impersonator, nature lover and saloon keeper. He was a congenial companion, and would spend hours at a time in story-telling with his friends.

Born in Utica, September 1, 1849, "Lafe" was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Heidell. His father was French, and a confectioner by trade. The family moved to Rochester when Lafayette was quite young, and here he grew up. After a varied experience as an actor, he opened a cafe in North Fitzhugh street, on the present site of the Baker theater, about twenty years ago. Later he did business in South Water street, the place being known only by his nickname, "Lafe."

Mr. Heidell made his stage debut in a theater in Exchange street, in what is now the Snow Wire works building. After that he had a varied stage experience. His particular forte was minstrelsy, but he was not without experience along more serious lines of histrionic endeavor. He was a clever mimic, a clever singer, reciter and dancer.

In 1875 Mr. Heidell was married to Miss Rose Lux, of Utica. They celebrated their silver wedding in 1900, and the event was attended by friends from many cities. Many were the telegrams and cablegrams received upon that occasion. The death of his wife on March 3, 1906, saddened the man's heart, and since that time he had never ceased to grieve. He lived alone at his home in Union street, but always the table has been set with places for two, just as though she were alive.

Mr. Heidell's favorite poet was James Whitcomb Riley, and he greatly admired Longfellow. He was a life-long friend of Riley. Mr. Riley was entertained at Heidell's home, and in the latter's library are many autographed copies of Riley's works. On one occasion when he entertained Mr. Riley the table decorations were arranged from frosted pumpkins and a running stream of water forced through a channel by a concealed engine.

During his stage career "Lafe" Heidell was the friend and intimate of such men as De Wolf Hopper, Eugene Cowles, Denman Thompson, Henry E. Dixey, Henry Davenport and a host of others. John Wood, a Rochester painter, and Bill Nye were among his intimates. But Riley was his delight, and the writer once said that Heidell could recite his poems in a true sympathetic mood more effectively than anyone else he had heard.

Mr. Heidell was a prominent mem-

ber of Rochester lodge, B. F. O. E. He was also a member of Yonnodio lodge, B. F. and A. M.; Rochester Aerie of Eagles; Lambs' club of New York City, and several social bodies. Ten years ago he was nominated on the democratic ticket for alderman in the fourth ward, but did not take the nomination seriously, and was defeated.



date unknown

Henrietta Heidel Tasker's  
brother

Lafayette Heidell

uncle To Una May  
Grayson