

Sketch of Chauncey H. Purple

By Samuel D. Hastings

Mr. Purple was born in Weedsport, Cayuga County, N. Y., in the year 1820. For several years while a resident of that place, he was engaged in mercantile pursuits. In 1844 he came to Wisconsin, and first settled at Waukesha, then Prairieville, where he opened a dry-goods store, which he conducted successfully for a number of years. During his residence in Waukesha, he was elected to the legislature of 1854, of which body he was an active and useful member.

In 1858, he was invited to Madison to take the position of bank clerk in the office of the State treasury, then under the charge of the writer. He held the position for a few months only, when he was appointed to the position of assistant State treasurer, which office he held for about ten years, nearly eight years under the administration of the writer, and two years under that of the Hon. William E. Smith.

Upon retiring from this long and faithful service, Mr. Purple removed to Watertown, and engaged in the lumber trade. He worked hard and faithfully to build up an extensive business; and would, without doubt, have succeeded, had it not been for the panic of 1873, which deranged all his plans, as it did those of many others. He continued, however, to struggle on, and was fast regaining a substantial foothold when he was called away.

His death was sudden and unexpected, occasioned by neuralgia of the heart. It occurred on the 13th of December, 1879, at the age of fifty-nine.

For some time previous to his death, he was unusually well, and in most excellent spirits. He had, on one or two occasions, within a week or two of his death, complained of slight pains in