

# Carpenter

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death. A notice in the *Albany Evening Journal* (Sept. 6, 1878) noted that Carpenter was bringing Charlotte back to Gansevoort “where the ex-sheriff is the owner of a valuable real estate.” The couple lived on their farm in Gansevoort except for a few short years in the early 1880s when Carpenter was employed as the keeper of Dannemora Prison (Clinton County). In 1890 Carpenter became a widow for the third time when Charlotte died of pneumonia on January 31 at the age of 58. She was buried in Gansevoort (Town of Northumberland Vital Records).

It is unclear what happened next in Franklin Carpenter’s personal life. The 1892 State Census states that Franklin was living with an Angeline Carpenter, though it is unclear if Angeline was his wife or not. A marriage certificate has not been located at this time to confirm the union. It is possible that they were living together but perhaps not married. As Lynn Calvin stated in his research on Carpenter, there is an Angeline Carpenter buried next to an Edwin Carpenter (d. 1889) in Gansevoort. With this information it is possible to imagine a relationship between them other than marriage; perhaps since they were both recently widowed they were living together for economic reasons. Also, since Angeline was formerly married to an Edwin Carpenter, perhaps they were related through marriage and already knew each other. Either way, the living arrangement recorded on the 1892 Census was not long lived as Carpenter moved on to his fourth (confirmed) marriage two years later. In yet another twist, the woman he married was Angeline’s younger sister. A marriage recorded in the Town of Saratoga Vital Records states that on June 5, 1894 Franklin Carpenter, age 65, married L. Matilda Deyoe (age 64). The transcription actually records the bride’s name as S. Matilda Deyoe but in comparing it to numerous other

documents that include her name this appears to be an error as she is usually recorded as Laura Matilda. The record lists this as Carpenter’s fourth marriage (possibly indicating he was not married to Angeline) and Deyoe’s second.

While living in Gansevoort, Carpenter was appointed postmaster under President Harrison, serving from 1890 to 1894. Financial problems must have plagued him during this decade as told by a petition recorded in the Saratoga County Clerk’s Deed Book 215, page 223, naming him an insolvent debtor in 1897. Bartlett B. Grippin of Wilton was named the assignee and Carpenter turned over all of his property (besides what was protected by law) to Grippin who was to sell the land and disperse the profit amongst Carpenter’s creditors.

Apparently his personal bankruptcy did not affect his public image as three years later Carpenter was again elected Saratoga County Sheriff for a three year term beginning in 1901. This term, like his first, also had its trials and tribulations. Carpenter was dealing with many large strikes during his tenure, including those of railroad and trolley workers. Companies such as the Hudson Valley Railroad called on Sheriff Carpenter to provide protection to the non-union men running their cars while the unions were on strike and held control of sections of the track between Saratoga and Stillwater (*North Tona-wanda Evening News* 6 Sep 1902). Sheriff Carpenter responded to the situation by naming many special deputies in order to keep the peace. Eventually, he was forced to call for the militia after a young boy was shot at Waterford in the unrest. Company L was stationed at the car barns of the Hudson Valley Railway in Stillwater and rode the cars between Waterford and Mechanicville in an attempt to diffuse the volatile situation.

Strikes were not the only issue on Sheriff Carpenter’s plate. During his second term an effort to eliminate illegal gambling (chiefly in Saratoga Springs) also played a large role in these early years of the twentieth century. Many thought that Carpenter was not doing enough to prevent well known establishments from opening their doors for another season. On April 5 1902 the *Mechanicville Saturday Mercury* reported that a Mr. Edwin Weed of New York City petitioned Governor Odell for the removal of Sheriff Carpenter from office because of his failure to serve a warrant on Richard Canfield at the popular gambling house called The Saratoga Club (currently the home to the Saratoga Springs History Museum in Congress Park). Apparently Mr. Weed and Sheriff Carpenter were on their way to serve the warrant but when they arrived at the Saratoga Club the sheriff declined to serve the warrant and expressed to Mr. Weed that he would serve the warrant at a more opportune time. The governor told Mr. Weed that he would look into the matter if he could provide proof positive of Carpenter’s neglect of duty. It appears Sheriff Carpenter was allowed to keep his post.

Though he may not have stopped gambling from continuing, there was another local pastime that he did put a

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