

JUDGE CATON DEAD

Aged Jurist Expires at Chicago
at 9:30 Tuesday Morning

SUFFERED MONTHS FROM PARALYSIS

He Was in His Eighty-Fourth Year—Came
to Ottawa in the Earlier Days and Had
Been One of the City's Fore-
most Men

Judge John Dean Caton died at his residence on the lake shore at Chicago at 9:30 Tuesday morning of paralysis, with which he had suffered the past two months, aged 83 years and 4 months. The news of his death, while a shock to his old friends in Ottawa, was not wholly unexpected, as he had been feeble several years and was not expected to survive the stroke of paralysis which visited him. The immediate cause of his death was probably a second stroke, following the first, a course characteristic of paralysis.

The venerable jurist, who, during the greater portion of his life had been one of Ottawa's foremost men, was born in Monroe, Orange county, New York, on March 19, 1812, and was the son of Robert Caton, a man of small means. His father dying when he was but four years old and leaving his mother without means, he was, very early in life, called upon to carve out his own destiny.

After taking a common school course, he entered the academy at Utica, New York, in 1829, taking a course in surveying. Nearly two years later he entered James H. Collins' law office at Utica, and was, in a short time, admitted to the New York bar.

SETTLED IN CHICAGO

He came west in 1833 and located at Chicago, being the second lawyer to open an office in what is now the great city of the west. He practiced until 1839 and then removed to a farm in Will county, which he owned at the time of his death. After three years of farming, he returned to Chicago and was appointed an associate justice of the supreme court to succeed Justice Ford. He was later elected to the office by the general assembly, and after the revision of the constitution in 1848, was re-elected by the people. He was chosen chief justice by his fellows in 1855, serving until the following June.

He was again a candidate for the bench in 1857 and being again elected served as chief justice from 1858 to 1864, when he resigned to take personal charge of his very extensive private interest, being interested in the local window glass factories, a telegraph company and other large interests involving large amounts of money. At the time of his death his wealth was estimated at upward of \$4,000,000, all of which he had accumulated by his own personal industry and wise investments.

He was a man of immense brain power and mind industry, most extensively traveled and of wide acquaintance with the great men and great affairs of the world. He found time, in the midst of his varied business and professional demands, to become an authority upon zoology, writing several valuable books and being elected a fellow of the Zoological Society of London.

HIS DOMESTIC LIFE

He married Miss Laura A. Sherrill, daughter of Jacob Sherrill, of Hartford, New York, in 1835, and with her and two daughters, Mrs. Charles Towne (deceased) and Mrs. Williams, and his only son, Arthur, spent a most beautiful home life.

His family accompanied him upon all of his travels, in Europe, China, Japan, South America, and Hawaii, and shared with him the world experience he had gained.

He built three splendid mansions, the one burned, the second now standing on the north bluff and the third on the lake shore in the most desirable residence portion of Chicago.

It is probable, although no word has been received, that his remains will be interred in the family lot in Ottawa avenue cemetery.