

HENRY VILLARD IS DEAD

Capitalist and Promoter Expires at His Country Home.

Began Life as a Newspaper Writer, but Soon Became a Railroad Builder—Funeral To-morrow.

DOBBS FERRY, N. Y., Nov. 12.—Henry Villard, the financier, died shortly after midnight last night at his home, Thorwood Park, about a mile east of the village. The cause of death was apoplexy, from which he had been a sufferer for several weeks.

He had been unconscious nearly all of the time since last Tuesday. There were at his bedside at the time of his death his wife, Mrs. Fanny Garrison Villard, daughter of William Lloyd Garrison; his sons, Oswald G., Harold G., with his wife; Mrs. William Lloyd Garrison of Boston, his sister-in-law, and Mr. Villard's only daughter, Mrs. James W. Bell of Dresden, Germany. In addition to the family, Mr. Villard leaves a sister, Mrs. Emma von Xylander, wife of Gen. Robert von Xylander of the Bavarian Army.

He had resided in Dobbs Ferry during the Summer months for the past eighteen years, where his home was in the midst of a handsome park.

It has been arranged that the funeral will take place at the residence on Wednesday afternoon at 3:15, when the services will be conducted by the Rev. Theodore C. Williams of Tarrytown. The interment will be in the family plot in Sleepy Hollow Cemetery, where repose the remains of his youngest son, Hilgard, who died when five years old, and who drove the golden spike completing the Northern Pacific Railroad, of which his father was President.

Thorwood, the name of Mr. Villard's country home here, is situated at the bend of Clinton Avenue. It is a massive and handsome villa of stone and brick, surrounded with spacious verandas.

As soon as Mr. Villard's death became known, telegrams of condolence began to arrive at the house.

He was very highly thought of by the people of Dobbs Ferry, as he was identified with all important public enterprises and a liberal contributor to every charity. He was prominently identified with the Dobbs Ferry Hospital, and a short time before his sickness was arranging for a new site on which to build a handsome hospital building.

It had been the intention of the Villard family to return to their New York home about the middle of October, but Mr. Villard's health was so precarious that his family physician, Dr. Champion H. Judson, persuaded him to remain in the country until he should become stronger. He took a severe cold a little over a week ago, and this added to his unpromising condition.

Henry Villard was born Heinrich Hilgard, in Speyer, Rhenish Bavaria, on April 11, 1835. His great-uncle, Theodor, the father of Julius Hilgard, who became Superintendent of the United States Coast Survey, led a migration of the family connection to Belleville, Ill., in 1836. His father, Gustav Hilgard, was in the judicial service of the Bavarian Government, and became Judge of the Supreme Court at Munich.

Heinrich was educated in schools at Zweibrucken, Speyer, and Phalsbourg. At the latter school the novelist Chatrian was his tutor in the French language.

In October, 1853, he broke off his university studies and set out for the United States, intending to join the colony of his relatives at Belleville. His father's opposition to this step made him borrow the surname of a French schoolmate at Phalsbourg, and he became Henry Villard.

He spent the Winter of 1854-5 on the farm of his uncle at Belleville, where he contributed to the local press. He next read law at Peoria, and went to Chicago, where he became a newspaper correspondent. In the latter capacity he reported the Lincoln-Douglas debates of 1858 for Eastern newspapers. In 1859 he was sent to Colorado by The Cincinnati Commercial to visit the newly discovered Pike's Peak gold fields. In 1860 he attended the convention which nominated Abraham Lincoln for the Presidency, and during the campaign he became a correspondent of The New York Herald.

During the civil war he acted as a war correspondent, and as such witnessed the battle of Bull Run, Buell's Western campaigns, Fredericksburg, and the Wilderness campaign. He was taken ill with fever on the eve of the battle of Chickamauga. For a time he conducted a press bureau in Washington, and when Horace White in 1865 became managing editor of The Chicago Tribune, Mr. Villard was made its Eastern correspondent.

In the following year he was sent by The New York Tribune to Europe to report the Austro-Prussian war, which was over before he reached there. He remained abroad to report the Paris Exposition in 1867.

Before going abroad he was married in Boston to Miss Fanny Garrison, daughter of William Lloyd Garrison, the abolitionist. In 1868 he became Secretary of the American Social Science Association in Boston, from which he resigned in 1871 to go to Europe again. He spent some time, chiefly in Wiesbaden, becoming connected with Frankfurt and Berlin bankers.

He returned to this country in 1873, and bought for the German bondholders the property of the Oregon and California Railroad Company and the Oregon Steamship Company. He also became a member of a Frankfurt committee of Kansas Pacific Railroad bondholders, and in 1875, with C. S. Greeley of St. Louis, undertook the receivership of the property. As Mr. Greeley worked with the Directors' alliance with the Union Pacific, then controlled by Jay Gould, the resulting friction led to the removal of both receivers by the Court.

By means of a so-called blind pool of some \$20,000,000 he formed the Oregon and Transcontinental, which acquired control of the Oregon Railway and Navigation Company and the Northern Pacific, and in September, 1881, he was elected President of the Northern Pacific. The completion of the road in the Summer of 1883 was accomplished in the presence of a large number of guests, who watched Mr. Villard's youngest son drive the golden spike which ended the work.

In 1884 the companies in which he was interested became so involved that there was a collapse, in which he suffered heavily.

Mr. Villard's financial embarrassment was responsible for the failure of the Stock Exchange firm of Decker, Howell & Co., for whom Mr. Villard's attorney, William Nelson Cromwell, was appointed assignee, and as such cleared up over \$1,000,000 by reason of extraordinary prompt settlement with creditors.

Mr. Villard returned to Germany, where he formed new financial relations which enabled him to repair his fortunes, and in three years came back to the United States. In October, 1889, he became Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Northern Pacific, which he held until the panic of 1893. In the latter year he prophesied bad conditions, and when the panic came the Northern Pacific was one of the first to be dragged down.

He gave aid to Edison, the inventor, and in 1890 he purchased from the latter the

Edison Lamp Company of Newark and the Edison Machine Works at Schenectady, from which he organized the Edison General Electric Company, serving as its President for two years.

The stock of the Oregon and Transcontinental Company, the financiering corporation organized to acquire other properties, and now the North American, was frequently quoted above 100, though selling now at 16. Wall Street has been counting on the belief that Mr. Villard had something in hand which would put back its value.

He was also interested in Western mining properties, and recently made an Alaskan tour, penetrating to the Klondike.

In Germany he is known as the founder of the hospital and training school at Speyer, the orphan asylum at Zweibruck, endowments of the industrial museum at Kaiserslautern, the Red Cross Hospital at Munich, and the Children's Hospital in Berlin, as well as the creator of foundations for scholarships in art schools, gymnasiums, and universities. He supported Bandler in the latter's researches in South American history and archaeology.

He gave liberally to the Oregon and Washington State Universities, Harvard, Columbia, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the American Museum of Natural History. He was a member of the Union League, Lawyers', Down-Town, and other clubs.

Politically, Mr. Villard was first interested in the anti-slavery agitation as a Republican. He was a free trader, and an early advocate of civil service reform. He delivered an address on the latter subject before the American Social Science Association in this city, which is said to have enlisted George William Curtis in this cause.

In 1881 he purchased a controlling interest in The Evening Post and The Nation, and placed E. L. Godkin and Horace White at their head, with explicit guarantees of absolute editorial independence.

Mr. Villard actively supported Grover Cleveland, and upon the latter's election gave a dinner to Mr. Cleveland and a number of personal and political friends.

He was also conspicuous as an art collector, and at one time was the owner of some of the highest-priced paintings in the United States. His Madison Avenue residence was the only combination house of its size in town. Two of his tenants or co-partners in this enterprise were White-law Reid and E. D. Adams.

INVENTOR DIES SUDDENLY.

Was a Graduate of West Point and Originated Multiplex Telegraph System.

F. Jarvis Patten, an inventor, died suddenly in his rooms in the house of J. B. Berry, at 208 East Thirty-second Street, last night. The death was reported to the police by Mr. Berry. Dr. Byington of Bellevue Hospital, who was in the station house at the time, went to the house.

F. Jarvis Patten was born in Bowdoinham, Maine, in 1852. He was the oldest son of Capt. Jarvis Patten, First Commissioner of Navigation of the United States, who was descended from a family that numbered among its members many fighters of Revolutionary renown.

Young Patten developed a talent for constructive drawing in his early youth, and his parents, fearing that he might become an artist, sent him to European schools to learn Latin and Greek and the like. This was when he was thirteen years old, and he remained abroad for the next four years, returning then to enter Cornell University. There he pursued the studies that he liked, leaving the classics alone. Until his junior year he did very well, but at that stage his college career was terminated by the Faculty on account of some frolic in which he had engaged. He went home, and while there an appointment to West Point was offered to him.

At the Military Academy he stood high in his classes, graduating and being commissioned a Lieutenant in the regular army in 1877. From then until 1887 he was on the Western frontier, fighting Indians, and, while off duty, doing much study in the line of engineering, mathematics, and electricity. He served in the battle of Wounded Knee and in the battle of Forlorn Hope as a Lieutenant. He was the only surviving officer of that engagement.

Lieut. Patten's first invention was a self-recording electrical target, designed for use in the army. It proved too expensive a piece of machinery, however, for practical use. Later he conceived the idea of the application of alternating motors to synchronous multiplex telegraphy. Then he proceeded to develop a system of synchronism that is self-corrective and has proved to be practically perfect, rendering possible an entirely new and original system of telegraphy by which twelve messages can be sent at the same time over the same wire without interference.

This invention was followed by numerous others, some of them very successful ones. Among them may be mentioned alternating motors of various forms, a novel system of distribution by alternating currents, and the gyroscope, used on ocean vessels for giving the position of the vessel in mid-ocean. He was at the time of his death at work on another important invention.

The multiplex telegraph system was purchased by the Western Union Telegraph Company.

For the past year Mr. Patten has been engaged with the Columbia Carbide Company, with offices at 31 and 33 Broadway. He was an intimate friend of ex-Gov. Campbell of Ohio. His mother lives in Washington, D. C. The cause of his death is unknown.