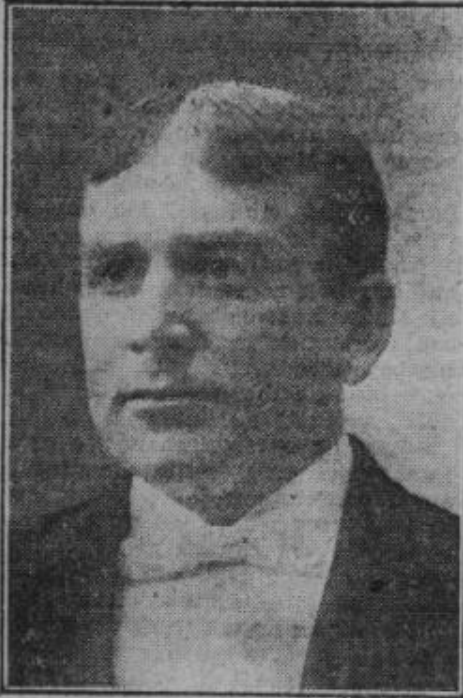


Ben Shaw

Ben Shaw, city editor of the Kennebec Journal, passed away at 8 o'clock Wednesday evening in this city after a long illness, in his 59th year, having been born March 3, 1861 in Gardiner, son of the late Benjamin and Harriet E. (Savelles) Shaw, prominent citizens of that city. No near relatives survive.



BEN SHAW

(From photograph taken in 1896)

He attended public schools of Gardiner, also Gardiner High, leaving the latter in 1879 to learn the printer's trade with the Gardiner Home Journal. Later he went to the Gardiner Reporter, where he remained until coming to the Kennebec Journal. While in Gardiner he served as clerk of the common council. He had one sister who died about 15 years ago, Mrs. Jennie Flitner. A cousin, Mrs. Susan E. Patten of Gardiner, is the only surviving relative.

The words "Ben Shaw is dead" brought a shock along the street and wherever heard, so accustomed were the business people to seeing his thick-set and sturdy form pass their doors and during his long service as city editor, with almost un-failing regularity. He had when in good health gained a wide reputation as a witty and easy writer, with wit falling from his tongue with almost every utterance, his every comment sparkling with humor, for to him the humorous in all things appealed most.

In later years, with his constitution undermined by constant pain and suffering through years of illness, his daily and hourly effort to maintain that good humor which had endeared him to so many was beyond the knowledge or belief of any but those closest to him and was to them a constant source of wonderment and admiration — for, that against which he fought in body and mind would have rendered most of us helpless and discouraged. His wonderful courage and grit carried him through many a dark hour. That his sufferings are ended is but a source of thankfulness to those who knew him best.

Ben Shaw was born and bred in Gardiner, where he lived until coming to the Kennebec Journal in 1895, as a pioneer worker in the old "chalk plate" process of making newspaper illustrations. His skill in that work so developed that the makers of chalk plates finally requested permission to use the discarded plates of his use for samples to advertise their manufacture.

Being a practical printer, Ben was utilized in about every department of the Journal office and the improved methods of protographic reproductions in time did away with the chalk plate pictures. He was then aiding with the reportorial work, and a vacancy occurring in the city editorship, some fifteen years ago, he was appointed to that position, which he had since filled.

Ben knew everyone. He had written during those years of the joys and sorrows of hundreds, yes, thousands of persons and families. He had seen and depicted in words the humor and pathos of life, as well as the stern realities. He lived his life well and good. His sufferings are

over—may he rest in peace. His passing will be felt by many and nowhere is it more acutely felt than in the Journal office, where for so many years his familiar form was seen and his cheery words heard.