

Nathan Henry Vanfossen, (1842 – 1900), Newspaper Clipping, The Perry Historians

Nathan Henry VanFossen, for many years connected with the Western Union Telegraph company in this city, died suddenly about 8:45 o'clock this morning, at his home in the Shaw building, Fifth Avenue, near Coursin Street. Death resulted from heart disease, with which Mr. Van Fossen had been suffering for the past six months or more. No death that has occurred in this city for some time has caused a greater shock than that of Mr. Van Fossen. Through his connection with the Western Union Company he had formed the acquaintance of almost every business man in the city and well known to hundreds of others.

The news of his sudden calling could at the first scarcely be credited. Mr. Van Fossen suffered greatly last week from heat and on two days he almost collapsed in his office. Last Monday he was compelled to go to bed and was unable to be about until yesterday afternoon, when he was sufficiently improved to dress. He seemed much better and hopes were entertained that he would be able to get out again in a day or two. This morning when he arose he seemed better, but soon complained. His suffering became more intense and shortly before 9 o'clock his wife went to the telephone to call a physician. When she returned to the room she found Mr. Van Fossen laying half on the floor and half on a lounge. He had evidently tried to reach the lounge and fallen. He lived less than one minute after his wife found him.

Mr. Van Fossen was in the 58th year of his age. He was born in Duncannon, Pa. near Harrisburg, and came to this city about twenty-five years ago. For almost thirty years he has been connected with the Western Union Company. For a number of years he had charge of the telegraph offices in the National Tube Company's offices, but six or seven years ago took charge of the office on Walnut street, of which he was still superintendent. He was married twice, and has two children living by his first wife; **Morse Van Fossen** of Wheeling, and **Mrs. George Obey** of Canton, Ohio. A brother **William** resides in Duncannon and a sister also survives him. He had no children by his second marriage. **Mr. Van Fossen** was a member of McKeesport conclave No. 81 I.O.H., and of the Ancient Essence Order. During the Civil War he served in the United States Signal Service and performed good services as an army telegrapher. No arrangements have been completed for the funeral. The body will probably be taken to the old home in Duncannon for burial.

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