

DEATH OF N. GANO DUNN

A ONCE PROMINENT NEW-YORKER COMMITS SUICIDE.

HE WAS WITHOUT MONEY AND DEPENDENT IN DENVER — WOULD MAKE NO STATEMENT REGARDING THE CAUSE FOR THE RASH ACT— THE STORY OF HIS CAREER.

DENVER, Col., Aug. 13.—Gen. N. Gano Dunn, formerly of New-York City, shot himself in the head last night and died this afternoon at St. Luke's Hospital. The cause of his act still remains a mystery, as the General refused to make any statement before dying. He left a few lines in a note addressed to "Fanny B.," in which he talks of disappointed love, &c. "Fanny B.'s" identity cannot be established.

Gen. Dunn was without money, and being of a proud disposition would not work at manual labor. He made a pretense of associating with the upper ten, and claimed to have run out of funds. He came to Denver about five years ago. Some of his acquaintances here have thought that at times he was partly insane.

Gen. Dunn began life in this city under the most favorable auspices, and a brilliant career seemed assured to him. Coming of an excellent family, he entered the army when only sixteen years old to fight against the South in the civil war. He served ably with the Eighth Regiment during the entire war, and, despite his youth, did such good service that he was promoted several times.

After the war he continued his connection with the Eighth, and his brilliant parts were so well recognized that he was elected Colonel of the regiment in 1869, being then but twenty-four years of age. He became an authority on military law and served on a number of courts-martial as Advocate General and as President. He presided at the famous trial of Capt. Bird W. Spencer, who was accused of cowardice during the orange riots in 1871 and 1872. This trial made a great stir in military circles at the time, and Gen. Dunn's rulings were upheld from first to last.

At this time Gen. Dunn was also among the best-known lawyers in the city. After his return from the war he had taken up the study of law, and was graduated with honors from the Columbia Law School. His practice grew steadily and yielded him a large income. He was fond of good horses and was one of the regular frequenters of the road.

During the Tweed upheaval, brought about by THE TIMES, Gen. Dunn gained additional prominence, having the distinction of being the youngest member of the famous Committee of Seventy. At the time that the committee was formed he was away for the summer in the White Mountains, but his abilities for the work that lay before the committee were so well known that he was telegraphed for. He immediately returned to the city and took an active part in the overthrow of Tweed. His youth attracted general attention to him, and he was better known than most of his associates. He gained his title of General in 1873, when Gov. Dix made him a Brigadier General and Chief of Engineers on his staff.

With all these honors piled on him a great future seemed certain. He had been happily married early in life, and had two sons who were now grown up and lived with their mother at 223 Eighth Avenue, across from Central Park. Gen. Dunn became involved with several women, and began to abuse and neglect his wife. For a long time, however, there was no public scandal. He continued to take an active part in public affairs, and went into politics on the Republican side. He never served in any office, but was elected as delegate to the National Convention which nominated Garfield. During this period his treatment of his family steadily grew worse. He began to drink to excess, and finally he ran off to Europe with a woman named Maria G. Robins. They remained abroad about two years, living as husband and wife, and from that time forward Dunn's downward career was rapid.

In 1886, when he had entirely lost his position in the community and after he had been detected in several questionable transactions, he disappeared. Later it developed that he had left his wife practically penniless. All his property he had transferred to the Robins woman.

On March 29, 1887, Mrs. Dunn, the deserted wife, was made the defendant in a suit brought by the woman Robins, in which the entire story of Dunn's shameful conduct came out. Mrs. Robins, as she called herself, had obtained the title to a piece of property at Twelfth and Hudson Streets through one Henry Hunt, a clerk in Gen. Dunn's office. Hunt had obtained the property from Mrs. Dunn. The latter at the trial testified that she had deeded the property to Hunt under threats from her husband. After the fear of the latter was removed from her by his flight she made a new deed to the property to her sister-in-law, Mary Sillick, and the latter transferred it to Mrs. Dunn's sister, Esther H. Sillick. This was done in order to test the validity of the transfer to Hunt and Maria G. Robins.

The suit brought to set aside these later transfers lasted for some time, and in the course of it the Robins woman practically admitted her relations with Dunn, as well as the fact that she had lived under three names. She declared, however, that she had paid Dunn large sums of money on their European tour. The runaway husband was shameless enough, from his safe retreat in Canada, to take the side of the Robins woman against his wife and children. He made several affidavits in behalf of the plaintiff, but the court refused to attach any faith to these affidavits, and on Nov. 12, 1887, a decree was handed down restoring the property to Mrs. Dunn. Shortly afterward the latter began a suit against her husband and obtained a decree of divorce.

Since then little has been heard of Dunn. His family learned of his whereabouts from time to time, and knew that he had gone from Canada to Denver. What he did or what sort of a life he led they did not know. The first intimation they had of his death was when reporters called at the flat where they live with copies of the Denver dispatches.

One of the sons, who is named N. Gano Dunn, after his father, telegraphed at once to the Chief of Police of Denver asking for information, and requesting that the body be held subject to the orders of the family. It was their intention, he said to a TIMES reporter, to bring the body East for burial. Of his father's family he declined to speak, except to express sorrow that the scandal which had dragged their family name through the mire before should now be revived by the suicide.

Gen. Dunn was born at Hempstead, L. I. in 1845. His father was Prof. Nathaniel Dunn, a classmate of Longfellow at Bowdoin College. When Gano was three years old the family removed to this city. One of the General's brothers, Andrew Dunn, is a member of the Minnesota Legislature.