

SENATOR SPEDDEN ENDED LIFE TODAY

Body Of Former State Senator Howard P. Spedden Found In The River This Morning. Had Only Been Dead A Short Time.

Former State Senator Howard P. Spedden, who had been in ill health for several years ended his life this morning by jumping into the Choptank River. So far as can be learned the tragedy occurred a little after nine o'clock this morning. He had been seen on the streets about nine o'clock by several persons and was last seen about nine o'clock walking down High street toward the Long Wharf.

About ten o'clock Captain Elbert D. Phillips and Mr. Stephen N. Twigg, who had been down to Horn's Point found the body floating in the water about midway between the wharf and the bell buoy and brought it ashore.

Senator Spedden was the son of the late Thomas Edward and Susan Frazier Spedden and was born at the family home in the Neck district. He was engaged in the mercantile business at James, in the Neck district, for about forty years, having formed a partnership when about nineteen years of age with a Mr. Richardson. Later his father, Captain Spedden, purchased Mr. Richardson's interest in the business and the name was changed to T. E. Spedden & Son. He was also engaged in the canning business for about the same length of time, the canning factory having been located on the water, some little distance from the store.

For several years he had been in poor health suffering not only from high blood pressure but also from some heart trouble as well. Recently he has had a number of attacks and only last night was seized with one while writing some letters in his office in the canning factory at the foot of Bridge Street. His condition was so bad last night that he could not move and members of the family had to help him out of the office to be taken home. This morning, however, he seemed to be much better and came down town about the usual time.

After leaving the Cambridge Post Office he seems to have walked right to the Long Wharf where he walked behind the freight house and took off his hat and coat, folding the coat very carefully and placing it over the hat. Judging from the distance from the wharf that the body was found it would seem that it did not sink but floated a distance of several hundred feet to the point where it was found.

Senator Spedden, who was a life-long Republican, was elected to the State Senate at the election in 1926. Prior to that election he had served as a member of the Board of County Commissioners for six years, having been President of the Board for two years.

His name was frequently mentioned in connection with the nomination for Clerk of the Circuit Court and also Register of Wills but at the expiration of his term as State Senator, owing to the condition of his health, he declined to be a candidate for any office, although he was urged at that time to accept the nomination for one or the other of the offices previously mentioned.

He removed to Cambridge about eight years ago, having purchased the residence at the corner of Oakley and Travers Streets. A few years later he sold out his mercantile business at James but continued to operate the canning house until it was destroyed by fire about two years ago. During the past season he operated the canning house at the foot of the bridge.

Senator Spedden is survived by his wife, who was before their marriage Miss Minnie Applegarth of Lloyds, and by one daughter, Mrs. Albanus Phillips, Jr. He is also survived by one brother, Mr. Calvin Spedden of this city, Clerk to the State Tax Commissioner for Dorchester county.

The funeral services will be held from his late home Sunday afternoon at half past two o'clock and will be conducted by the Rev. W. G. Harris, pastor of the Zion Church, this city. Interment will be in Greenlawn cemetery.