

CHESTER TIMES – December 15, 1902

BETHEL M. CUSTER'S BUSY LIFE IS ENDED – Death Overtakes Him in the Midst of His Activities – Was Sick but A Short Time

In but a short time from a stroke of paralysis, Bethel M. Custer, widely known as a dairyman, died in the Pennsylvania Hospital, Philadelphia, yesterday afternoon at the age of 74 years. Mr. Custer was a resident of Llanwellyn, the site of which, when he purchased it, was farm land. It was while passing through Broad Street Station, while traveling between his home and the Quaker City, that last week he was attacked by the malady that called him from the activities of his earthly career.

Bethel M. Custer was born in Upper Merion Township, Montgomery County, Pa., on June 8 1828. His parents were John and Elizabeth (Osborn) Custer, who were of German descent and remotely connected with the distinguished General Custer, who lost his life at Little Big Horn, fighting the Indians.

The deceased was reared on his father's farm, received his early education in his native county, finishing it in Philadelphia. He learned the blacksmith trade at which he served some time, then entered the dairy business, starting in West Philadelphia. In 1836 he purchased the farm at Llanwellyn, this county, which aggregated 225 acres of choice land. The village was built on his first purchase of 500 acres.

Considerable of his time was directed to real estate transactions, he was vice president of the First National Bank of Darby, which he was instrumental in organizing.

On November 6, 1855, Mr. Custer was married to Mrs. Jane Robinson, by whom he had ten children. In politics he always was a staunch Democrat and had been active in the counsels of his party. He was nominated for Congress after the Hon. William Ward, and after a heated campaign was defeated. Twice he was the nominee of his party for the Legislature, but was defeated each time. He has served as township auditor and road supervisor and has been a school director for 17 years, serving as secretary and president, respectively.

He was widely read, had a finely cultivated mind and was well posted on current events. He was a member of the Baptist denomination for forty-five years. He also was a member of Cassia Lodge, F. & A.M. of Montgomery County, and of St. John's Commandery, K.T. of Philadelphia.

Mr. Custer was monumental in pushing to completion the Chester and Darby Telford Road Company, in which he was greatly interested.