

DEATH OF J. B. STEARNS.

THE WASHINGTON SERIES AND OTHER PICTURES THAT HE PAINTED.

Junius Brutus Stearns, of Brooklyn, who was thrown from his carriage Thursday evening, died before morning. The accident happened about dusk. Mr. Stearns was driving along the boulevard near Classon-avenue, when a carriage, containing Mr. and Mrs. Henry Johnson, of No. 898 West Fifteenth-street, this city, and Mr. James Sanderson, of No. 246 West Forty-third-street, approached from the opposite direction. Neither driver saw the other team in time to avert a collision, and the two carriages came together with a crash. Mr. Stearns was thrown violently upon the pavement, and his skull was fractured. Mrs. Johnson was also thrown out, but escaped with slight injuries.

Mr. Stearns was a native of Burlington, Vt., where he was born on July 2, 1810. In his early years he showed a precocious talent for drawing, and at the age of 17, when he came to this city, friendless and alone, he determined to make art the profession of his life. He began as a portrait painter and did such excellent work in this line that he had all the orders to which he could attend. The invention of the daguerreotype, however, was a great blow to portrait painting for the time being, and Mr. Stearns began to turn his attention to historical subjects. In 1847 he went to Europe, where he spent three years in Paris, London, and Rome, painting a series of pictures, for which he had made studies in this country. This was the well known Washington series, which drew forth great commendations from French, English, and American critics, and are now embraced in the Brandreth collection. Five pictures constitute the series, representing Washington as a citizen, at his wedding; as a soldier, at the defeat of Braddock, at the battle of Monongahela; as a farmer, overseeing the workmen on his plantation; as a statesman, taking the inauguration oath as President, and as a Christian on his deathbed. These pictures were lithographed, and the artist received a large royalty from their sale.

During his visit to Europe Mr. Stearns also completed a painting representing Gen. Harrison's treaty with the Indians. Upon his return he took it from the stretcher, rolled it up, and sent it to his stateroom on the steamer which sailed from Havre. On reaching New-York the painting was gone, and in its place was found a chart. Twelve years after Mr. Stearns received a letter from the American Consul at Paris stating that a shipping firm of Havre had found a painting bearing his name rolled up among its charts. The picture had been substituted by mistake for a chart on the steamer, and had lain concealed for all this time. Dr. Brandreth, to whose order it was painted, was so much pleased at its recovery that he paid for it the original price agreed on, with interest.

Mr. Stearns was one of the founders and for many years a member of the Council of the National Academy of Design, and enjoyed the titles of N. D. and N. A. He was for several years the commander of the Twelfth Regiment, New-York Militia. For the last 30 years he had resided in Brooklyn, where he was identified with the class known as the "old Williamsburgers." He leaves a daughter and four sons, one of whom—Raphael C. Stearns—was formerly a Park Commissioner of Brooklyn and is commander of Harry Lee Post, No. 21, G. A. R. The funeral will be held from the late residence of the artist, No. 106 South Second-street, Brooklyn, Eastern District, to-morrow afternoon at 2 o'clock, and the interment will be at Cypress Hills.

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