

[Bellinger, Willis H.]

W. H. BELLINGER, 45, DEXTER FIRE CHIEF, EXPIRES MONDAY

Willis H. Bellinger, 45, village treasurer, president of the board of education and chief of the Dexter Volunteer Fire Department, died at his home in that village at 4 a. m. Monday. He had been in failing health during the past year but had been active until admitted to Mercy hospital June 23 for observation. He was discharged from the hospital on July 1 and returned home. Death was due to a kidney ailment.

Mr. Bellinger, a partner in the C. C. Bloom grocery store, had been about the store and active in his public offices until he entered the Watertown hospital.

Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Muriel Bloom Bellinger; his parents, Mr. and Mrs. B. J. Bellinger, of Gibsonton, Fla., three children, Doris, Robert and Paul Bellinger, Dexter; and two sisters, Mrs. Paul True, Tampa, Fla., and Mrs. William Moore, Watertown.

Funeral services were held this Wednesday at 1:30 from his home and at 2 from the Dexter Universalist church, Rev. Dr. H. H. Niles, of Watertown, officiating. Burial was made in Dexter cemetery.

Full military burial honors were accorded by the Jesse E. Smith Post No. 583, American Legion, of which he was a member and past commander.

Mr. Bellinger was born in Dexter on March 31, 1896, the son of B. J. and Bertha Eigabroadt Bellinger, now residents of Florida. He received his education in the Dexter schools. He enlisted in the Watertown National Guard unit two days before the United States entered the World war. He was trained at Camp Wadsworth, S. C., and went overseas on May 17, 1918. He was in France until February 28, 1919. He returned to this country with his unit and was discharged on April 3, 1919.

Returning to Dexter he worked in the paper mills for a time before going into partnership with Charles Bloom about 15 years ago. He engaged in that business until the time of his death, although he had been absent from the store since the middle of June.

He was elected treasurer of the village of Dexter ten years ago and held the post until his death. He had been a member of the board of education of school district No. 7 of the town of Brownville for several years and last year was elected president. For the past 14 years he had been chief of the Dexter fire department, having been elected in 1927. At the time of his death he was also president of the Jefferson County Volunteer Firemen's Association.

He was married to Miss Muriel Bloom, of Watertown, in Watertown, on April 10, 1919.

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