

[Clark, Frank Brighton]

FRANK B. CLARK RITES HELD IN WATERTOWN

Funeral services for Frank B. Clark, of Watertown, who died suddenly Sunday evening at 7:30 o'clock, were held this afternoon at 3:30 o'clock at the family home in Watertown. The Rev. Dr. Harry Westbrook Reed, pastor of All Souls Universalist Church [which Frank Clark attended], officiated. Burial was in Brookside Cemetery, Watertown.

Mr. Clark was 63 years old. He was a brother of the late Brayton R. Clark of Malone, who died in 1924, and of Mrs. Edward B. Folsom, of Watertown, who was formerly Mrs. L. F. Lehr, of Malone.

Stricken with coronary thrombosis, a plugging of a blood vessel by the formation of a clot within its walls, Mr. Clark dropped dead at the corner of Mullin and Washington Streets, a few hundred feet from his home.

Mr. Clark has been president of the Frank A. Empsall & Company of Watertown for the past 17 years. He had been in failing health for several years.

Surviving Mr. Clark, besides his widow, are a son, Edwin S. Clark; a sister, Mrs. Edward B. Folsom; a granddaughter, Patricia Clark, and a niece, Mrs. A. Raymond Cornwall, all of this city.

Frank Brighton Clark was born May 30, 1874, at Dexter, a son of the late Edwin S. and Abigail Vincent Clark. His early education was received in the public schools of Dexter where he was graduated from high school. Later he attended the Clinton Liberal Institute at Fort Plain, a military school [a Universalist-heritage institution], being graduated with the class of 1893. Later in life Mr. Clark became a trustee of that institute and served in that capacity until his death.

Upon the completion of his education, Mr. Clark returned to Dexter, where he joined his father and two brothers, Herbert V. Clark and Brayton R. Clark, in business. His father, one of the pioneer settlers of the towns of Brownville and Lyme, was the founder of the general store at Dexter originally known as Clark's Emporium. The Clark store, now owned by C. Sumner Booth and still bearing the family name, was later known as the H. V. and F. B. Clark Company. Founded by Edwin S. Clark in 1858, it is one of the oldest businesses of its kind in Dexter.

The business prospered from the start. E. S. Clark's two sons, B. R. Clark and H. V. Clark, were taken into the firm in 1889, they purchasing stock from their father. In 1896 Frank B. Clark also became a member of the firm and after the death of E. S. Clark the sons continued the business.

Not long after Frank Clark joined the firm, Brayton Clark retired from the business, selling his interest to his brothers, and moving to Malone where the three Clark brothers and their brother-in-law, Louis F. Lehr, bought the Weed

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Paper Company. In 1900 H. V. Clark also came to Malone, and with his two brothers and brother-in-law organized the Malone Paper Company from the Weed Paper Company.

Brayton Clark and Mr. Lehr came to Malone to manage the business of the Weed Paper Company. Herbert Clark became president of the Malone Paper Company, a position in which he continued to serve until his death which occurred Aug. 13, 1930. Frank Clark was for years a director of the Malone Paper Company.

After Brayton Clark withdrew from the Dexter store, the firm of H. V. and F. B. Clark company was formed with H. V. Clark as president and F. B. Clark as secretary and treasurer. In 1913 C. J Sumner Booth, who had entered the firm in 1899 as a salesman, purchased stock in the business and became vice-president of the company.

In 1915 Frank Clark retired from the firm, disposing of his interest to his brother, Herbert V. Clark, and the firm then became known as the H. V. Clark Company.

His connection with the Clark store severed, Frank Clark in 1915 moved to Watertown and in June of that year he, with John J. Flynn and F. J. McCarthy, entered the wholesale candy business and organized the John J. Flynn Candy Company, which became the Clark-Flynn Candy Company.

About 1926 Mr. Clark purchased the business block at 649 Factory Street, Watertown, and the business of the candy company was moved there from the Anthony Street location. Mr. Clark continued as the president of the company until his death.

Mr. Clark first became identified with the Empsall Company in May, 1920, when he and Henry A. Hickok, then a Watertown banker, purchased the interest of Frank A. Empsall in the concern.

The change in the ownership of the company, one of the largest department stores in Northern New York, was one of the largest and most important changes in the mercantile life of that city in many years and it marked the retirement of Mr. Empsall from a business developed largely thru his own efforts.

Mr. Empsall's connection with the company terminated May 15, 1920, when Mr. Clark and Mr. Hickok, each of whom had an equal share of the ownership, took over the business. Mr. Clark succeeded Fred W. Empsall as president, and [an] office which Mr. Clark held until his death, and Mr. Hickok became vice-president and treasurer.

In 1925 Mr. Clark purchased the interest of Mr. Hickok in the Empsall Company and since then he had been active manager as well as president of the company. Through Mr. Clark's personal efforts, the Empsall Company in 1922 purchased the Roth building, which houses the Empsall store, the hostelry known as the Traveler's Hotel being included in the transaction.

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Mr. Clark acquired another major business interest in 1923 when he, with H. V. Clark and Henry A. Hickok, purchased the old Samuel Felt Drug Company, the city's oldest drug concern. The retail and wholesale businesses of the company were segregated by the new owners, the Empsall Drug Company taking over the retail end of the business and a new corporation, known as the Felt Drug Company, was formed to take over the wholesale end of the business. The Felt Drug Company was continued as a wholesale concern at Printing House place. H. V. Clark was its president and manager at the time of his death, but since his death Frank Clark, who was a stockholder and director, had been its president.

Mr. Clark was one of the organizers of the Watertown Underwriters' Corporation in January, 1920, and since its organization he had been a director. He had been vice-president of the corporation for about seven years.

He had been a director of the Northern New York Trust Company for more than 16 years, being originally elected to the board in January, 1921. At the time of his death he was also a member of the bank's executive committee, having served in that capacity for about ten years.

Mr. Clark also had served as a director of the old DeGrasse Paper Company and the Carthage Sulphite Pulp & Paper Company, as well as the Malone Paper Company.

Mr. Clark was a trustee of Mercy Hospital, a trustee of the Brookside Cemetery Association, a director of the newly-formed Hospital Service Association of Jefferson County, a member of the Black River Valley Club, the Thousand Island Country Club and the Jefferson County Golf Club.

Evening Telegram, Malone NY, Wed. 12 May 1937

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