

[Gunnison, Herbert Foster]

HERBERT F. GUNNISON

With the death of Herbert F. Gunnison at his Brooklyn home last Friday, there passed a truly great man, one who has left a lasting impression on the civic life of Brooklyn, and a man who was from early years always a loyal supporter not only of St. Lawrence University, but a man who had a very great and practical interest in the welfare of its alumni.

Mr. Gunnison was a dynamic man. Not only did he use his very great ability as a newspaper man and a business man to make the great Brooklyn Eagle an ever greater and more efficient organ, constantly better and stronger, but he was very vitally interested in the success of his friends. Rarely did he meet one of them that almost immediately he did not plunge into matters relating to their welfare. He showed that he had been a student of their enterprises, and that his active and practical mind had been busy in an effort to make helpful and wholly unselfish suggestions.

Ever since the early 80's when a senior at the university was wondering what he could find to do upon graduation, he was told by the alumni with whom he talked to "see Herb." And Mr. Gunnison helped, immediately, or carried that man's name and qualifications in his mind and ultimately communicated with him to his advantage.

Arriving in Canton at commencement, almost his first query would be as to those of the graduating class who had not secured positions. He classified them, found out their abilities, and at once his busy mind went to work upon their problems.

The Gunnison brothers were a tower of St. Lawrence strength. Dr. Almon Gunnison, prominent minister of Brooklyn, widely known, ultimately the president of St. Lawrence; Prin. Walter B. Gunnison, head of Erasmus High in Brooklyn; Herbert, they formed a wonderful trio, untiring, energetic, devoted to St. Lawrence. Parishes in Brooklyn, New York City, and in many places opened their doors to the graduates of the theological school as soon as Dr. Almon Gunnison spoke the word. Graduates found teaching positions in the great city. Other graduates found business openings. At one time it was said that St. Lawrence had a greater percent of its alumni finely located in New York than did any other institution of its kind. That may be true today. Herbert Gunnison was the last of these brothers to go. He will be sadly missed and long remembered.

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### H. F. Gunnison Dies, Brooklyn Editor

Former Publisher of The Eagle Succumbs After Long Illness at the Age of 74

JOURNALIST FOR 50 YEARS

His Interest in Type Began When He Was 12—Got \$5 a Week on First News Job

Herbert F. Gunnison, former publisher of the Brooklyn Daily Eagle, died at 2;15 o'clock this morning at his home, 8311 Ridge Boulevard, Brooklyn, after a long illness. Mr. Gunnison was 74 years old.

With him when he died were his wife, Mrs. Effie Gunnison, their three children, Raymond and Foster Gunnison and Mrs. Florence Brown, and the family physician, Dr. Henry F. Bruning, who had been in almost constant attendance since Mr. Gunnison suffered a collapse last Saturday night.

Dr. Bruning said the tenacity with which Mr. Gunnison had clung to life after Saturday's collapse was almost unprecedented in medical history. Mr. Gunnison suffered from hardening of the arteries, and in this situation it is extremely rare for a patient to survive more than forty-eight hours after such a collapse.

Mr. Gunnison, who was associated with the Brooklyn Daily Eagle for almost 50 years, first as reporter and finally as publisher, president and chairman of the board of trustees, was born in Halifax, N.S. on June 28, 1858, son of the Rev. Nathaniel Gunnison, a Universalist minister and Federal Vice Consul in Halifax during the Civil War.

Growing up in the Maine communities where his father preached, young Gunnison first became interested in what was to become his profession when he was only 12 years old. He began with a small font of rubber type, an ink pad and a holder and gradually expanded his outfit until he possessed a good-sized amateur job printing plant. With this he met part of his expenses at St. Lawrence University, which he entered in 1876, after the death of his father.

Graduating in 1880 with high honors, including election to Phi Beta Kappa, he came to Brooklyn and obtained a job as reporter on The Brooklyn Times. He earned \$5 a week, and the story is told that he "covered" his assignments on horseback to save time.

After a year and a half on The Times he joined the staff of The Brooklyn Daily Eagle, of which Thomas Kinsella was then editor, and was assigned to "Dutchtown," now Bushwick, at a salary of \$16 a week. In 1883 he obtained a leave of absence for a trip to California and on his return, after a brief period writing "board of education and country news," he became Albany correspondent of The Eagle.

His work there attracted the attention of Colonel William Hester, president, and William M. Van Anden, treasurer of The Eagle, and in 1887 he was recalled to take charge of the Eagle Almanac, which he built up into a complete reference book for Brooklyn.

From 1890 until 1893, when he went to Chicago to establish an information bureau at the World's Fair, Mr. Gunnison was a kind of handyman in the paper's business department. On his return from Chicago he established a local information bureau which subsequently developed into the Eagle Travel and Information Bureau.

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He was made assistant business manager in 1893 and business manager in 1898, having meanwhile become a stockholder and director in the company. Colonel Hester later appointed him publisher, and on the Colonel's death in 1921 he became vice president as well. When William V. Hester, son of Colonel Hester, died in 1924, Mr. Gunnison was elected president, assuming control of the paper, which had been in the Van Anden-Hester family ever since it was founded in 1811 by Isaac Van Anden. William V. Hester, Jr., however, still remained as secretary of the company.

When Frank E. Gannett of Rochester added The Eagle to his newspaper chain in 1929, Mr. Gunnison maintained an interest in the paper and was made chairman of the board of trustees. In February of this year, however, when The Eagle reverted to its former Brooklyn owners, Raymond M. Gunnison, a son, was elected chairman of the board, a post which he relinquished a few months later in a reorganization.

Mr. Gunnison married on April 29, 1866, Miss Alice May, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John May of Brooklyn. They had three children, Mrs. Florence Brown, Raymond and Foster Gunnison. Mrs. Gunnison died in 1903 at the age of 42, and on Jan. 20, 1923, Mr. Gunnison married Mrs. Effie M. Baldwin of Brooklyn.

Mr. and Mrs. Gunnison traveled extensively in recent years and when not abroad spent their Summers at their home in Highmount, N.Y.

Mr. Gunnison was one of the organizers of the Newspaper Publishers Association, for which he was treasurer for several years. He was vice president and then president of the New York City Publishers Association, vice president for two years of the Associated Press and a trustee of St. Lawrence University and one of the organizers of its Brooklyn Law School.

He served on the boards of hospitals, banks and other institutions and was a member of the Crescent Athletic-Hamilton Club, the University Club of Brooklyn, the Rembrandt Club, the Municipal Club of Brooklyn, the Pilgrims Society, the Social Science Club and the Fox Hills and Pakatakan Golf clubs. He was the author of three books, "Out on Long Island," "Flatbush of To-day" and "Two Americans in a Motorcar."

An active participant in the work of All Souls Universalist Church of Flatbush, of which his brother, the Rev. Dr. Almon Gunnison, who later became president of St. Lawrence University, was pastor for many years. Mr. Gunnison was for a time president of the board of trustees of the church and was still chairman of the advisory committee at the time of his death.

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