

[Ottman, Frank]

FUNERAL SERVICES FOR FRANK OTTMAN HELD MONDAY

Early last Friday morning St. Johnsville lost one of its oldest and most prominent businessmen when Frank Ottman, 76, died in the Little Falls Hospital where he had undergone an emergency operation a few days before.

Mr. Ottman was born in the Town of Minden, Feb. 15, 1876, the son of Hiram and Susan Whyland Ottman. He attended the Ft. Plain schools as a boy. The family moved to Little Falls when he was still quite young.

In 1892 he became a member of the first recognized basketball team in the nation, playing under the name of the Little Falls Athletic Association. His picture and the records of the team are preserved in the basketball Hall of Fame at Springfield, Mass.

He was married June 24, 1903 to Lizzie Allter. On March 15, 1904 he came to St. Johnsville to work in the Jacob Allter General Store located then at the corner of Main and Division St. In 1931 he moved to the present location of Ottman's Store where in 1938 he formed a joint business with members of his family, incorporating under the name of Ottman's.

Mr. Ottman was one of the original Board of Directors of the Margaret Reaney Memorial Library and he was appointed in 1913 to the Village Municipal Board in which capacity he served until 1931. He joined the St. Johnsville Lodge, F. & A.M. in 1914 to 1916 during which time the present Masonic Temple on Bridge Street was built.

In 1918 he was assistant grand lecturer of the Masonic Grange Lodge of the State of New York for the Fulton-Hamilton Herkimer and Montgomery County District. He was a member of St. Paul's Universalist Church in Little Falls.

The survivors besides his wife are two sons, Donald and Willard Ottman and one daughter, Mrs. Edward Davis, also five grandchildren; two brothers, George Ottman of Gloversville and Harold Ottman of Herkimer; four sisters, Mrs. Esther Brown of St. Johnsville, Mrs. Carl Harter of Herkimer, Mrs. William Torbitt of Frankfort, Mrs. Anna Johnson of New York City.

The funeral was held Monday at 2 p.m. at the Smith Funeral Home. The Rev. Clifford Butterer, pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, officiated. Burial was made in the St. Johnsville Cemetery.

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