

[Poste, William A.]

WILLIAM A. POSTE DEAD.
FATAL EFFECT OF AN OPERATION FOR APPENDICITIS.

William A. Poste, formerly Deputy Attorney General of the State, and late State Civil Service Commissioner, died suddenly at the Presbyterian Hospital, New York City, at 5:30 o'clock this morning, after an operation for appendicitis. He had been ill but a short time, and few of his friends knew that he was in the hospital. His wife was absent in her home at Canton, N.Y., and had started for New York to attend to her husband in the hospital. Mr. Poste was a partner in the law firm of Russell, Poste & Piercy, of 32 Nassau street. He was born in St. Lawrence County, about forty-two years ago, and graduated from St. Lawrence University in 1871. Later he was a teacher in the Westbrook Seminary of Westbrook, Maine, and then studied law. He was First Assistant Attorney General, under Denis O'Brien and Charles F. Tabor. He was a member of the Lotos Club, in New York City. His body will be taken to Canton to-night at 9:15. The members of the St. Lawrence Association will gather to [at] the Grand Central Depot at that hour.

Daily Standard Union, Brooklyn NY, Tue. 21 Jan 1896

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HONORS TO THE DEAD Body of Hon. William A. Poste Receives Its Last Sad Rites Amid Mourning Friends

The funeral of Hon. William a. Poste was held at his late residence on State street at half-past one o'clock Thursday afternoon of last week. The house was filled with the many friends of the departed. The deceased was a member of the Beta chapter at the college and of the Club, and both of these organizations attended in a body. The college faculty, and members of the bar of Canton and visiting members of the bar of the county were also present.

The floral tributes were numerous, and testified to the deep feeling entertained towards Mr. Poste by the Club, the Betas and friends. Rev. A. G. Gaines, D.D., ex-president of the college, and for many years a close friend of Mr. Poste, read a brief passage of Scripture, and then in a few words of deep feeling spoke of his long acquaintance with the deceased. Twenty-six years ago he had met Mr. Poste, then a student in the college, at the home of President Flake. He was impressed at that time by Mr. Poste's interest in sound education and his evident strength of purpose, a characteristic that has followed him through life. At one time he had the honor to offer Mr. Poste the chair of Greek professor at the college, which he [Poste] saw fit to refuse, having decided to follow the legal profession. The deceased was a member of the Universalist church, and a student and friend, he had always found him firm in conviction, steady of purpose, upright and able. The venerable Doctor then touchingly referred to the last time he met Mr. Poste, when the latter spent his Christmas vacation in Canton, and when he had shaken hands with this strong, robust man, the thought had occurred to him that long years after he should [would] have passed away, Mr. Poste would be busy in his chosen calling, faithfully performing his duty, a power for good in the world; and now, in a few short weeks, he was called to mourn over the body of his friend.

Rev. Wyndham Brown, the Rector of Grace church, followed in prayer. After the simple and impressive ceremony a sad company followed the body to the grave. The pall bearers were Hon. Leslie W. Russell, Senator Charles H. Russell, Hon. J. C. Keeler, Frank N. Cleaveland, Ledyard P. Hale, [and] Charles Perkins. The remains were interred in the new cemetery.

Members of the bar outside of Canton who were in attendance were Hon. Charles H. Russell, of New York, one of the late partners of the deceased; Hon. John A. Vance, Hon. Theodore H. Swift and John G. McIntyre, of Potsdam; Hon. V. P. Abbott, C. Arthur Parker and Charles M. Hale, of Gouverneur.

Mr. Poste died as he had lived, quietly, manfully, ready to meet what was before him. His closest friends knew nothing of his condition until the news of his death reached them. His wife had a letter from him the previous week saying that he had had the sickest day of his life. He gradually grew worse and Monday his physician told him that an operation for appendicitis was his only hope, and so he was taken to the hospital. At two o'clock that night his partner,

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Mr. Percy, learned that he had been operated upon and rushing to the hospital, was finally admitted. There was a handclasp, a few words from Mr. Poste, saying that the doctors said his chances were only even, a request that Mr. Percy look after certain matters in case of his death, a request that he comply with the wishes of the nurse and leave, and that was all. He died alone, unwilling to burden others or cause them needless anxiety.

The members of the Canton bar adopted the following resolutions:

In sorrowing memory of our departed brother, William A. Poste, whose death has come with the force of an unexpected blow to this community, with a keen appreciation of his integrity and capacity as a lawyer and his manly work as a citizen, and with a still profounder sense of that greater and more enduring deprivation to the mourning widow and children, we, the members of the bar of Canon, here record our sad tribute to the lawyer and the man, extending the suffering family the heartfelt sympathy which spontaneously springs from their bereavement, with the certain assurance that the example of his life will long survive his death for emulation and encouragement.

At a meeting of the members of the bar of Gouverneur village, held at the office of Gleason & Johnson on the evening of January 22, 1896, the following resolutions were adopted:

Resolved, That the members of the bar of Gouverneur have heard with sorrow of the sudden death of Hon. William A. Poste, of Canton, N.Y., who died in the city of New York on January 21, 1896.

Resolved, That the bar of northern New York has lost one of its foremost members; the community where he resided one of its best and purest citizens; the state a faithful and efficient officer and servant; and his family a kind and indulgent father and husband.

Resolved, That we extend to the bereaved family our heartfelt sympathy in their great affliction; that as many of our members attend the funeral of the deceased as can make it convenient; and that the secretary of this meeting be instructed to furnish a copy of these resolutions to the family of said deceased, and also to the press of the county for publication.

V. P. ABBOTT, Chairman

CHAS. M. HALE, Secretary

St. Lawrence Plaindealer, Canton NY, Wed. 29 Jan 1896