

[Ames, Louis Annin]

Head of Flag Factory Dies

Louis A. Ames Had Been President of Annin's Since 1909

Funeral services were held Monday afternoon at the Church of the Divine Paternity [Fourth Universalist], New York for Louis Annin Ames, Essex Fells, president and chairman of the board of Annin & Company, Verona and New York City. Mr. Ames died Friday at his home at 216 Roseland Avenue at the age of 86. Interment was in Kensico Cemetery, Westchester County, N.Y.

Mr. Ames headed the oldest and largest flag factory in the country which is located at 163 Bloomfield Avenue with another plant in Los Angeles. He was also a junior partner in the firm which he had headed since 1909. He served as president of the Verona Trust Company, now the Montclair Trust Company, retiring in 1950 when he was succeeded by the late Herbert Appleton.

He was born on the Island of St. Helena off the coast of South Carolina and was the only child of the late Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Meech [Phebe Annin Palmer] Ames. His father died a few months after Mr. Ames' birth and his mother returned to Jersey City where her parents lived. Mr. Ames lived in that city until 1896 when he moved to New York City.

Some time later he purchased a Summer residence in Essex Fells which at that time was opening up as a Summer resort. Upon the death of his wife, Mrs. Abby Crowell Ames in 1939, he made Essex Fells his year-round home.

Under Mr. Ames' tenure as president of Annin's, the company expanded to a point where it now makes some 25,000,000 American flags a year. Its files also contain patterns of 250,000 other flags, including those of colleges, private organizations and foreign nations. The firm was founded in the early 1880s by Alexander Annin, a ship chandler who made flags on the side.

Mr. Ames was an authority on American history, and in 1936 played a prominent part in having the traditional flag of New Jersey preserved. At that time it was proposed that the flag design be discarded for a new one, as it was intricate in design and expensive to make. Mr. Ames announced that the original design had been drawn up by George Washington and flown at the scene of Cornwallis's surrender at Yorktown.

Some famous and unusual flags have been made by the Verona concern which Mr. Ames headed. One was made for the J. L. Hudson department store in Detroit which wanted a huge flag to celebrate the fifth anniversary of the signing of the Armistice. For that purpose, Annin made the largest flag ever manufactured, 270 feet long and ninety feet wide. It contained seven miles of thread and cost the buyer \$3,700.

In 1947, the largest free flying flag in the world was made for the Port of New York Authority and was designed to hang within the arch of the Jersey

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side of the George Washington Bridge. The firm has made waterproof flags for submarines, Braille flags for the blind and luminous flags for night use.

Mr. Ames was also in the real estate business and was president of the Annin Real Estate Company, Inc., the Old Glory Realty Company and the North Sixteenth Street Realty Company, all of New York. He also headed the Park Lane Realty Company of Essex Fells which opened up Park Lane for home development in that borough.

He served a term as president-general of National Society, Sons of the American Revolution in 1918-1919 and also served as president of the society's New York and Empire State units. For four years he was governor general of the Founders and Patriots of America and at one time was governor of the New York society of that order.

He was president of the American Friends of Lafayette from 1943 to 1945; trustee of the Grover Cleveland Birthplace at Caldwell and was a member of both the New Jersey and New York societies of Colonial Wars; the St. Nicholas Group, Society of American Wars, and Union Society, Pilgrims of the United States.

He was a trustee of the Church of the Divine Paternity at Seventy-sixth Street and Central Park West from 1919 to 1936 and was president of the church board of trustees from 1929 to 1949. He was a trustee of the Universalist Church of America for thirty-two years and headed several of its national and New York State organizations.

Other memberships included the Manufacturers Association of New Jersey, Essex Fells Brook Club and various commercial and fraternal groups in New York.

Two daughters, Mrs. Cameron R. Beard and Mrs. Raymond B. Jones, both of Essex Fells, survive.

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