

[Aspinwall, Algernon Aikin]

Algernon Aiken Aspinwall, who died in Washington, D. C., in 1923, was a son of Rev. J. [Joseph] A. Aspinwall, of Nunda, and a direct descendant of John Howland and John Tilley, who came over on the Mayflower in 1620. For many years he was historian of the Society of Mayflower Descendants and also published, among other works, a "History of the Aspinwall Family in America."

Mr. Aspinwall was born in 1845 and was educated at Nunda Literary Institute. When just about to enter college, he responded instead to the call of President Lincoln for volunteers at the start of the Civil War and joined the Union forces. In 1885 he was offered an appointment in the Interior Department and spent the remainder of his life in Washington.

In Nunda, the Aspinwalls lived in the present Goll house, Gibbs street, and in the house in Massachusetts street occupied by Police Chief Burns and family.

Rev. J. A. Aspinwall, who was born in the historic year of 1812, was minister of the Universalist church when he died in 1860. His other sons were J. Frank, Channing and Irving. Frank lived in Nunda, his mother making her home with him some 30 years after the death of Rev. Aspinwall. Channing was in business in Boston, and Irving with Western Union.

Irving Aspinwall, at the time of his death in 1926, was believed to hold the longest record of continuous service with Western Union in New York state—some 60 years. It was rumored various times that he had retired, but he actually had been retired only about a year. Most of his service was in Penn Yan, where he was manager of the Western Union office for many years.

The Aspinwalls were talented people, with a wide variety of interests and hobbies. Frank, who raised garden plants at his place in Massachusetts street, was one of the early experimenters with silk worms and mulberries when possibilities of silk production in this country attracted widespread interest more than a hundred years ago. One of the granddaughters, Lucille Aspinwall Tackach, was a concert singer of note.

All were well read and well informed. But, what perhaps was most important, they were highly regarded and had an enviable reputation for being "good neighbors."

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