

[Baum, Fred E.]

FRED E. BAUM

One of Potsdam's most widely known citizens, Fred E. Baum, died on Tuesday, Feb. 2 at the Montreal General Hospital where he had been under treatment since January 12. He had been in failing health for a year or two, but was not seriously ill until just before he was taken to the Montreal General Hospital. Dr. W. H. Rose was his physician here. Mrs. Baum accompanied him to Montreal and was there with him during his illness there.

Fred E. Baum was born in Potsdam January 16, 1861, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Baum. James Baum for years owned and operated a shoe store on Market street, in the building now occupied by the Grand Union store. He was an expert shoemaker as well as salesman. Fred was in business with his father for several years.

Mr. Baum was twice married. His first wife was Miss Gene Dayton, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Dayton. His second wife who survives him was Mrs. Helen Pitcher Drake. They have always resided in Potsdam.

For 38 years Mr. Baum held the office of town clerk of Potsdam and so capably did he do his work that no one contested his election. He succeeded the late Josiah L. Brown holding the office under Supervisors Edward A. Merritt, Jr., George W. Sisson, Jr., Oscar Veitch, Nathan E. Clark Jr., and E. E. Wright. In 1934 Mr. Baum resigned his office and was succeeded by W. T. Hinman after serving the longest period of time on for a town officer in Potsdam.

The Potsdam Savings & Loan Association was organized in 1890, and from the periods when the late B. T. Scott, who served one term and Charles H. Sisson, who served two terms were secretaries, Mr. Baum has been secretary of that association for the rest of the time, a period of 43 years.

Mr. Baum's records, in the town clerk's office and in the Loan Association were always accurate and in proper balance. An auditor told the writer that in going through the Loan Association Books, a few years ago, from the beginning only one or two small and unimportant errors were discovered, a wonderful record for such an extended time.

Probably no man in Potsdam had a wider acquaintance than Mr. Baum, through his contact with people in his public capacity as clerk, his secretary ship of the Savings & Loan, his extreme activity in fraternal organizations and among the firemen of the state.

Of the Potsdam Fire Department he was one of the oldest members, President of the Northern New York Fireman's Association for two years and its treasurer for eight years. Especially capable as a presiding officer or as marshal in parades and conventions he was called upon times without

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number for such services and he still attended parades and major fires even though retired for over 15 years.

Devoted to the Masonic Fraternity and to the Odd Fellows he was honored repeatedly by office elections. He was Master of Racquette River Lodge No. 213, F. & A. M., 5 years; District Deputy Grand Master, 2 years; High Priest St. Lawrence Chapter, one year; Worthy Patron, Vega Chapter, 98 O. E. S.; Noble Grand of Excelsior Lodge, I.O.O.F and District Deputy Grand Master, 2 years. He was also active in St. Lawrence Commandery, No. 24, Canton and a member of Media Temple, Mystic Shrine of Watertown.

He was a member of the First Universalist church, Potsdam, sang in the choir for years and was a member of the board of trustees.

He is survived by his wife and a brother Schuyler Baum, vice president and cashier of the Lincoln National Bank & Trust Company of Syracuse.

Funeral services will be held at the home at 2 o'clock today, Friday, with burial at Bayside cemetery.

Mr. Baum was a true friend. Genial, kindly, efficient, he was always ready to assist in every good cause and served in every capacity with the greatest efficiency. He will be greatly missed in this community.

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