

[Bents, Byron George]

BYRON G. BENTS EXPIRES AT 81

Byron George Bents, 81, flooring contractor, a former roofing contractor and a one-time hardware merchant of this city, died suddenly about 4 Friday afternoon at the family home, 152 Flower avenue east, apparently of a heart attack with which he was stricken as he sat sleeping in a chair.

The funeral will be Sunday afternoon at 2 in All Souls Universalist church. Rev. Dr. Harold H. Niles, pastor, will officiate. Burial will be in North Watertown cemetery.

Friends may call at the Howland-Stoddard Funeral chapel this afternoon and evening.

Surviving Mr. Bents is a daughter, Mrs. James A. (Gertrude A.) Remorino, also of 152 Flower avenue east.

Mr. Bents, partially blind, had not been well since the accident he suffered at his home Palm Sunday when he fell down the cellar stairs and broke his left hip. However, he had been able to be up and around his home and was still active in the flooring business.

Mr. Bents, who had developed a heart condition following the fall, was sitting up in his chair upstairs and was apparently asleep when he suffered the attack. A member of the household found him dead in the chair, evidently only a few minutes after he died.

His wife, Mrs. Mary Wait Bents, died Aug. 19, 1938, at the family home, then 715 Academy street.

Mr. Bents was born Nov. 2, 1876, at LaFargeville, a son of John and Alice VanCoughnet Bents. He was educated in the LaFargeville public school, Clayton High school and Albany Business college.

Coming to Watertown in early life, Mr. Bents had long been identified with the business life of the community. At one time he was employed by the plumbing, heating and sheet metal business of Hyde Brothers, composed of George H. and Charles H. Hyde. Later, he was employed at the Pool & Sill hardware store owned by Joseph W. Pool and J. Sterling Sill.

Mr. Bents was afterward identified with the hardware firm of Pool, Bents & company. About 1905, he, his father, and a cousin, the later Merton A. Bushnell, entered into a partnership, took over the business of Pool, Bents & company and organized the hardware firm of Bents, Bushnell & company.

The company operated a general hardware and paint store in the Burdick block on lower Franklin street. John Bents, the father of Byron, had died [in 1924]. Mr. Bushnell died Dec. 28, 1951.

For a time Mr. Bents, who was also a manufacturers' selling agent, had headquarters for his roofing contracting business at the rear of 124 Franklin street. Eventually, he moved the business to his Flower avenue east home. Later, he abandoned the roofing business and entered into the flooring

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business, becoming a partner of the late George N. Deline. The two were rubber-tile flooring contractors.

The partnership ended with the death of Mr. Deline, who died suddenly at the Bents home while on a business visit there Dec. 15, 1950. Thereafter, Mr. Bents continued the business himself.

Mr. Bents married Miss Mary A. Wait of this city in this city June 17, 1903. Rev. Dr. Moses H. Harris, then the pastor of the All Souls Universalist church, performed the ceremony.

Mr. Bents had long been an active member of the All Souls Universalist church. He was a former member of its board of trustees and once served as the church clerk.

He was a former member of the Rotary club, resigning after 35 years of membership. He was a member of the Garland City council, United Commercial Travelers, and a life member of Watertown City Lodge, 291, I.O.O.F.

A sister, Miss Alberta C. Bents, who also lived at the Flower avenue east home, died Jan. 17, 1954.

Daily Times, Watertown NY, 23 Nov 1957

Transcribed on 26 Dec 2010 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY