

[Brown, Walter L.]

Ex-Senator Brown Dies

Walter L. Brown, since 1872 a resident of Oneonta and for more than half a century since elapsing one of its most prominent and influential citizens, passed away Sunday at Montebello, California, where with Mr. and Mrs. Julius J. Turner he was passing the winter. News of his demise came in a telegram Monday. Mr. Brown represented this county in the state senate several terms and was well known by many of the older residents of the county.

Richfield Springs Mercury, Richfield Springs NY, Thu. 7 Feb 1924

FUNERAL OF HON. W. L. BROWN
Impressice [sic] Service Saturday—Rev. J.A. Judge Officiates

Private services, attended by relatives and intimate personal friends, were held at 2:30 o'clock Saturday afternoon for the late Hon. Walter L. Brown at his late residence, 97 Main street, Oneonta, on Wednesday of last week brought from California. The funeral was conducted by the Rev. J. A. Judge, pastor of the Chapin Memorial [Universalist] church of Oneonta city, who read suitable scripture selections and followed with a brief address in which fitting tribute was paid to the life, worth and public interest of the deceased.

Mr. Judge prefaced his remarks with the following appropriate selection from the poems of John G [Greenleaf] Whittier¹:

When on my day of life the night is falling,
And in the winds from the unsunned spaces blown,
I hear far voices out of darkness calling
My feet to paths unknown.
Thou, who hast made my home of life so pleasant,
Leave not its tenant when the walls decay;
O Love Divine, ever present,
Be though my strength and stay.
Be near me when all else is drifting,
Earth, sky, home's pictures, days of shade and shine,
And kindly faces to my own, unlifting,
The love that answers mine.
Suffice it if—my good and ill unreckoned
And both forgiv'n through Thy abounding grace,
I find myself by hands familiar beckoned
Unto my fitting place.
Some humble door among Thy many mansions,
Some sheltering shade, where sin and striving cease,

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And flows forever through heaven's green expansions
The river of Thy peace.

There, from the music round about me stealing,
I fain would learn the new and holy song,
And find at last beneath Thy trees of healing,
The life for which I long.

Following prayer, Mr. Judge took for his text the words in Genesis V-XXIV: "Enoch walked with God and was not, for God took him." No eulogy, he said was necessary for a man like the deceased, whose life was full of achievement. Walter Brown was a loving husband, a good citizen, good friend and one who always considered himself a friend of all.

"He did not sit in the scorner's seat,
Nor hurl the cynic's ban;
But lived in a house by the side of the street
And was a friend to man."

His religion was more in deeds than in creeds, and his generosity was the kind which helps in a real way and does not desire praise.

Following the services at the home, the body was taken to the Glenwood cemetery where the Elks had charge, the impressive ritual of the order given by Dr. Julian C. Smith, exalted ruler of the Oneonta lodge. Interment was in the family plot, Dr. A.W. Cutler, H.W. Fluhrer, Dr. P. I. Bugbee, Prof. A.M. Curtis, Edward Crippen and Robert Hall, all of whom had been associated with the deceased in organizations for public betterment and in business, acting as bearers. There were many beautiful flowers from friends and organizations, among the latter being tributes from the Normal faculty, Norman board, Otsego and Delaware Telephone company, Glenwood Cemetery Association, directors of Fox Memorial hospital, Hospital Alumni association, and the Woman's board of the hospital, Order of Elks, Veteran Firemen's Association, and the Ladies' Aid society of the Universalist church.

Among those present from out of the city were Mrs. T.H. Cox of Rome, a sister of the deceased; C.A. Brown of Fort Dodge, Iowa; Mr. and Mrs. Albert Krebs and Miss Mary Wilson of Rome; Mr. and Mrs. Clifton Schlemmer of Islip, L.I.; Mr. and Mrs. George Small of Syracuse, Chester Boise and daughter of Cherry Valley; Miss Mary Brown, Mr. and Mrs. James Fuller, Mr. and Mrs. C.H. Borst and Mr. and Mrs. William Brown of Cobleskill; Mr. and Mrs. O.D. Wescott; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Stewart and Mrs. E.E. Cummings and sons of Milford.

Otsego Farmer, Cooperstown NY, Fri. 14 Mar 1924

¹[from *The Bay of Seven Islands, and Other Poems*, 1883]

Transcribed on 15 Sep 2011 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY