

Bryant, William Cullen

WILLIAM CULLEN BRYANT DEAD; APOPLEXY THE CAUSE Publisher's Career Long Identified With the Public Life of Brooklyn ALWAYS A POPULAR CITIZEN

William Cullen Bryant, the publisher of the Brooklyn Times, died to-day at a sanitarium in Plainfield. N. J. He had suffered a stroke of apoplexy this morning. This came at 9 A.M. and three hours later the patient was dead. His family, in the Eastern District, had been instantaneously notified of the stroke, and William B. Bryant, his oldest son, was at the bedside when the end came. His second son, Mortimer D. Bryant; his daughter, Miss Camilla Bryant, and James A. Sperry, his brother-in-law, reached Plainfield just after Mr. Bryant's demise.

Mr. Bryant, at the time of his death, was business manager of the Brooklyn Times, Secretary of the American Newspaper Publishers' Association, Treasurer of the Publishers' Press, and one of the best known men in the journalistic profession throughout the United States. Mr. Bryant was a typical New Yorker. He was born in New York City, August 1, 1849. He spent the early years of his life, however, in Brooklyn, and was educated in Public School No. 16, from which he was graduated. His early boyhood years were spent largely upon his father's farm in Connecticut, which lay midway between Derby and Bridgeport. It was here that he laid the foundation for a very vigorous constitution. Mr. Bryant was always hale and hearty and very fond of an outdoor active life. He was seldom sick until the trouble which ended fatally for him began to develop last spring, during the protracted illness of his wife. Mr. Bryant was always very fond of horseback riding, a sport which he indulged in for many years.

Mr. Bryant began his career with the firm of H. B. Claflin & Co., whom he represented for seven years. He then became manager for Henry B. Osgood & Co., dry goods dealers, of Boston. In 1875 he began his newspaper career by becoming associated with his father-in-law, the late Bernard Peters, in the publication of the Brooklyn Times. On October 5, 1875, he married Mr. Peters' eldest daughter, Julia M., and his connection with the Times preceded that event by a few months. Mr. Bryant was one of the founders of the American Newspaper Publishers Association. He early became one of the members of its executive committee, and in February, 1893, was elected its secretary. This position made him the executive officer of the association and his office in the Potter building, Manhattan, became the clearing houes [house] for the business transactions for all the great daily newspapers throughout the United States and Canada. About three years ago Mr. Bryant was made treasurer of the Publishers Press Association. He had also served for many years as secretary of the local Publishers Association in New York City.

In social and political life in Brooklyn Mr. Bryant always took a very active part. He was the first president of the Williamsburg Athletic Club, which was first situated at Penn street and Wythe avenue, and which was afterward moved to DeKalb avenue. He was the first president of the Hanover Club and held that position for about five years. He also took an active interest in the affairs of the Republican organization of Kings County, and was on two occasions mentioned in the Brooklyn city convention for the mayoralty nomination. The first time was in 1893, when Charles A. Schieren was nominated. The

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second time was in 1895, when Frederick W. Wurster became the candidate. After his election Mr. Wurster, who had been a life long friend and schoolmate of Mr. Bryant, and had succeeded him as president of the Hanover Cub, offered Mr. Bryant the position of fire commissioner. Bryant accepted this position and served during the Wurster administration.

Mr. Bryant's administration was marked with great success. He was one of the most popular commissioners with the men that Brooklyn ever had. He maintained strict discipline, but was ever mindful of the needs and the comforts of the fire fighters under him. All the fire houses that were erected during his term were marked improvements upon those that had gone before, in that they provided the latest bathing facilities for the men. It was during this time that the fire facilities were extended throughout the old county town section of Kings County and several new engine houses were erected.

When the Forty-seventh Regiment returned from its garrison duty at Porto [sic] Rico after the Spanish-American War, Mr. Bryant was selected as grand marshal of the parade which met the regiment at the pier in South Brooklyn, and escorted it to its armory on Marcy avenue.

In 1903, when the Williamsburg Bridge was opened, Mr. Bryant was again selected as grand marshal. This time he commanded the civic organisations that paraded in honor of that event.

Mr. Bryant's first wife died in 1887, and two years later he married Mr. Peters' youngest daughter, Mary W. Mr. Bryant is survived by five children. His oldest son, William Bernard Bryant, is an assistant to Business Manager H. N. Kellogg of the New York Tribune. His second son, Mortimer D. Bryant, is associated in the management of the Brooklyn Times. Miss Camilla L. Bryant is the youngest child by the first wife. Two minors, Thomas A. and Julia Bryant, are children of the second wife. Mr. Bryant's home for years had been at 539 Bedford avenue. His wife's health was poor for about a year previous to her death, which occurred September 6, 1901. Six months previous to that Mrs. Bryant, who had suffered severely by attacks from rheumatism, failed visibly. Heart weakness developed, and during the spring she was repeatedly prostrated. In the summer her trouble became acute. Mr. Bryant's devotion to his wife was constant and the long strain broke his health and his friends saw that he was becoming weakened in June. Since then his effort to fight off his illness has been constant. He insisted upon attending to his duties as far as possible up to the close of the year. In January his family insisted upon his giving up business and he was taken South to Jacksonville. Mr. Bryant insisted that he must return to Brooklyn, and when the cold wave of early February invaded Jacksonville he came back home. From that time his failing was steady. He was removed to a sanitarium in Plainfield, N. J., where he received constant care and attention. Mr. Bryant's breakdown came from nervous prostration, which brought on paralysis of the left side.

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FUNERAL OF MR. BRYANT
Services Will be Held in St. John's M.E. Church To-morrow Night

Funeral services for William Cullen Bryant will be held at St. John's M. E. Church, corner of Bedford avenue and Wilson street, at 8 o'clock to-morrow night. The body of Mr. Bryant, who died yesterday at Plainfield, N. J., was brought to his late home, at 539 Bedford avenue, this morning. The Rev. L. Ward Brigham, pastor of All Souls Universalist Church, will officiate at the funeral, and will be assisted by the Rev. Dr. Almon Gunnison, president of St. Lawrence University. The Rev. Dr. David G. Downey, pastor of St. John's Church, will read the Scriptural lesson. The selection of St. John's Church for the service was made necessary by the recent sale of All Souls Church, of which Mr. Bryant was an attendant. All Souls Chapel is not large enough.

[A paragraph about the selection of honorary pallbearers is omitted here.]

When the news of Mr. Bryant's death yesterday afternoon reached the New York City Publishers Association, at its monthly meeting in the Hardware Club, Manhattan, an adjournment was at once taken. Mr. Bryant was Secretary of the association. At the New York Press Club, of which Mr. Bryant was a former president, George H. Rowe, the president, yesterday, afternoon caused a notice of his death to be posted and appointed a committee to represent the club at the funeral services. The War Veterans and Sons Association, at its meeting in Borough Hall, last evening, adopted resolutions lamenting Mr. Bryant's death.

The Hanover Club, of which Mr. Bryant was the first president, has sent out notices to all the members, requesting their attendance at the clubhouse to-morrow night at 7:40 o'clock. From there the members will go in a body to St. John's M. E. Church, where the services are to be held. During the services the clubhouse will be closed.

The Brooklyn Publishers Association will meet tonight, adopt resolutions, and take other appropriate action on the death of Mr. Bryant.

Many telegrams and letters of condolence have been received by the family from friends. One of the first letters was from Charles H. Taylor, Jr. of the Boston Globe, president of the American Newspaper Publishers Association. The interment will be made Saturday morning in the family plot in the Cypress Hills Cemetery.

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