

[Bugbee, Percy Isaac]

DR. PERCY I. BUGBEE, AGE 77, DIES  
ST. LAWRENCE GRADUATE IN 1877 AND OUTSTANDING EDUCATOR  
From Old Canton Family, For Many Years Head of Oneonta Normal  
Sister, Alice, Survives

Dr. Percy I. Bugbee, 77, reared in Canton, a graduate of St. Lawrence, class of '79, Professor of Mathematics in the Oneonta High School for six years, Principal of that school for thirty-five years, died at the White Plains hospital Wednesday morning after a year's illness. The funeral was held Sunday at Oneonta. Miss Addie Stuart, a cousin, of Canton, attended.

Dr. Bugbee was the son of John F. and Clementina P. Gates Bugbee, and was born in Colton. Later the family moved to Canton where his father was for many years a justice of the peace and a practicing lawyer.

Getting his schooling in Colton and Canton, Percy Bugbee entered the class of 1879 at St. Lawrence University. After graduation he taught in Colton and later in Naples and Newark, N.Y., serving as principal of schools at the latter places.

Upon the opening of the State Normal School at Oneonta in 1889 he was called there as Professor of Mathematics, a position he held for six years until 1895. He then resigned to become the conductor of the New York State Teachers' Association, holding that position for three years, until 1898. In that year he accepted the principalship of the Oneonta Normal, serving in that capacity until 1931, when, possibly due to the death of his wife in that year and advanced age, he resigned. Since that time he has resided at Oneonta until he became ill a year ago. He has been a frequent visitor in Canton, and about the time of his resignation he expressed the intention of a little later taking up residence here.

Honors came to Mr. Bugbee and he became one of the state's outstanding educators. His Alma Mater conferred the degree of Master of Arts upon him in '82 and the degree of Doctor of Science in '98. He was while in college a member of the Beta Theta Pi fraternity and upon the organization of Phi Beta Kappa he was elected to membership in that body. He was a member of the Draft Board in Otsego county in the war against Germany, and was in constant demand in the state as a speaker on educational subjects. He was at one time President of the Council of Normal School Principals; for over twenty years he served on Oneonta's Board of Education. He had been President of the New York State Teachers' Association. He was a member of the Oneonta Lodge of Elks and of the Universalist church.

In 1883 he married Miss Ida Maria Farns, a Canton resident, a member of his college class and at one time a teacher in Canton's academy.

A brother, Edwin Howard Bugbee, graduated from St. Lawrence in 1887 and became a well known educator in this state and Pennsylvania, dying in

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1899. A sister, Harriet, graduated from St. Lawrence in 1884, since dying. Miss Alice, a sister, and now the only survivor of the family, was in constant attendance upon her brother throughout his last sickness.

The only living graduate member of Dr. Bugbee's class is Dr. Lucia E. Heaton, of Canton and Brooklyn. The living non-graduates of that class are Mrs. Betsey Coon Connable, of Volin, S. Dakota, and Hon Ralph E, Crane, of Santa Ana, Calif., and Mrs. Ledyard P. Hale, of Canton.

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Transcribed on 28 Mar 2013 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY