

[Case, Edward Emmett 1916]

EDWARD E. CASE, ILL THREE WEEKS, DIES
HEAT MAY HAVE BROUGHT ON HIS LAST ILLNESS
LONG IN THE LUMBER TRADE

He Was Born Here in 1848 and Always Lived Here—His Plant Was
Burned Out Five Different Times—A Commissioner of Safety Under Cahill

Edward Emmett Case, well known resident of this city, died Saturday at midnight at his home, 628 Cooper street, following a three weeks' illness of nervous troubles, aged 68 years. Mr. Case had been in failing health for some time, but his condition had been critical since three weeks ago. He had worked until the time of his last illness. The last work he had done was in a wheel pit in his shop, and it is thought that the heat precipitated his illness. The third day after his attack, it was necessary that he go to bed.

The funeral will be held at the late home Tuesday afternoon at 3:30, Rev. Harry Westbrook Reed, pastor of All Souls church [Universalist] officiating. Interment will be made in the family plot in Brookside cemetery. The members of Watertown lodge, 496, B.P.O.E., of which Mr. Case was a member, will conduct the ritual at the home.

He was a life-long resident of this city. He was born May 23, 1848, in the old Case homestead, located in Anthony street, where the New York Central terminal now stands. He was the son of the late Lorenzo D. and Adelia Joy Case.

In 1847 his father established what was later known as the Case Lumber & Roofing Company, in a building located on the present site of the Riverside flats. This structure burned to the ground in 1857. Everything was destroyed. The old suspension bridge caught on fire at the time of the fire, and burned.

Lorenzo Case was given the contract to build a new suspension bridge, but the difficulty of getting a line across the river prevented his carrying out the contract.

Finally, however, Edward Case and his brother, Richard, sailed a kite across the river. A stouter cord was fastened to the kite string, then a light rope and then a heavy rope. Finally the heavy cable was pulled across. For the feat of sailing the kite across, Edward Case was given a gold dollar. The piece is now in the possession of the family and has been converted into a baby's ring.

After the lumber building was burned, Lorenzo Case changed their location and established a business at 108-112 River street, where the business has been since continued.

Mr. Case was educated in the public schools and when 21 years old, or 47 years ago, he entered the shop with his father. A short time later he was taken into the firm, the firm being known as L. D. Case & Son.

Twenty-eight years ago, on the death of his father, he took over the business himself, which he conducted until the time of his death. At one time

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he became engaged in the bicycle rim business, but when his building burned to the ground 21 years ago, he gave up this line and continued the door, sash and blind business alone.

Five times the Case lumber shop burned to the ground, the last fire occurring six years ago last December. The shop was rebuilt each time and new machinery was installed. Mr. Case's extraordinary courage in rebuilding the plant gained the admiration of the public. He was always cheerful and when the ashes of the burned structure had hardly cooled, he set about plans to build a successor.

The work of rebuilding the shop the last time was too great a strain and this gradually brought him to a serious nervous condition. He worried a great deal about the affairs of the shop.

He was at one time in partnership with the late John E. Folsom, the firm being Case & Folsom. Upon the latter's death he resumed full proprietorship of the business.

He was appointed a commissioner on the board of public safety by Daniel W. Cahill during Mr. Cahill's term as mayor of the city. He served on this board for five years, serving a portion of this term under Mayor Francis M. Hugo. During the time he served on this board he was on the fire committee and took keen interest in the workings of the fire department.

He was a member of the local lodge of Elks and a charter member of Court Watertown, 445, I.O.O.F. He was a life-long member of All Souls Universalist church.

Mr. Case was married twice, his first wife being Miss Lorain (Weese?) of this city. The first marriage took place 43 years ago. Four sons were born of this union: Lorenzo D. Case of Fort Myers, Florida, Floyd R. [Case] of Chicago, William R. Case of this city, Ralph Edward Case of New York city, all of whom survive.

He married Miss Ruth Dawson, daughter of George and Mary Ann Dawson of this city, in September, 28 years ago, as his second wife. Besides his sons and second wife, there survive two sisters, Mrs. W. R. Baker and Mrs. Elvira Walt, both of this city, and one cousin, Mrs. Phoebe Case of this city, the latter having resided with him for many years.

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Transcribed on 21 Dec 2023 by Karen E. Dau of East Rochester, NY