

[Clark, Abel Hyde]

DEATH SUMMONS ABEL H. CLARK AT RIPE AGE OF 84

Has Failed in Health Since Auto Accident Last Fall

WAS A PROMINENT LUMBER DEALER

Was Once An Alderman and Commissioner On the Water Board

Abel Hyde Clark, aged 84 years, one of the most prominent lumber dealers in this city, died last night at 10:30 o'clock at his home, No. 66 East Genesee Street. Since last October when Mr. Clark was struck by an automobile and badly hurt, he had been gradually failing until death came last night. Previous to his being hurt, he was active in his business and was a strong Republican.

Surviving besides his widow are three sons, Dr. Julian Hyde Clark of Brooklyn, [and] Mortimer M. and Paul R. Clark, both of this city.

Mr. Clark was born in Maine, Broome County, New York, September 9, 1834 and was the son of Ezekiel Hyde and Nancy Williams Clark. His father was a tanner and early settled in Maine, as it was the center of the hemlock country, and hemlock bark in those days was essential for the proper tanning of hides. There he built and for many years operated a tannery. Later, bark becoming scarce, he built a new tannery in Vestal, Broome County, which he operated down to the time of his death and which afterward was sold out by his heirs to the United States Leather Company. His son, Abel, received his early education in the Owego Academy, where his school education was completed. He began his active business life as salesman in a hardware store in New York City.

Made Money in Real Estate.

After several years' experience in that line, through the influence of his eldest brother, Julian, who was then superintendent of the Auburn & Susquehanna Railroad Company, he received a railroad appointment with headquarters at Elmira. In February, 1864, he married Helen S. Manning, daughter of David R. Manning, one of the pioneers of Broome County, and shortly afterwards settled in Waverly, N.Y., where he engaged in the monument and stone business for seven years. During that period he made the nucleus of his fortune in the judicious purchase and sale of village real estate.

In 1871 he moved to this city and founded a lumber business under the name of D. C. Syoner & Co. with offices in Seminary Avenue, and from that inception has grown through his able management the large and important lumber business in Auburn. From time to time as the enterprise grew, he purchased his partner's interests until he became sole owner of the business and afterwards conducted it in his own name until February 1, 1902, when he took in partnership his two sons, Mortimer M. and Paul R. and formed the Clark Lumber Company, under which name the enterprise has since been

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carried on. The new company still occupies the old stand in Seminary Avenue, which has been materially increased by the acquisition of the Keeler property at the corner of Seminary Avenue and Franklin Street.

Was Once Alderman.

Mr. Clark was a strong Republican in politics and has always taken an active interest in the welfare of his party and has frequently been sent as a delegate to Republican conventions in 1888 and 1889 and he was a member of the Board of Aldermen of the city of Auburn, and was one of the three water commissioners having charge of the entire water supply of the city during the years of 1901, 1902 and 1903. He was a charter member of the Auburn City Club and for many years was a member and took active interest in the Cayuga County Historical Society.

He has always been affiliated with the Universalist Church and since his residence in Auburn has been an attendant at the First Universalist Church. For over 20 years he was a trustee of the church and for several years chairman of its Board of Trustees.

Funeral services will be held Friday afternoon from the late home at 3:30, with Rev. H. M. Cary, former pastor of the First Universalist Church and now of Little Falls officiating. Burial will be made in Soule Cemetery.

*The Citizen*, Auburn NY, Wed. 1 May 1918

Transcribed on 27 Dec 2015 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY