

[Curtis, Howard M.]

### RETIRED SPA POSTMASTER DIES AT 77

Richfield Springs—Howard M. Curtis, 77, who served a postmaster here for 15 years prior to his retirement in 1948, died unexpectedly Dec. 8, 1953 at his home, 4 John St.

He was named acting postmaster in August, 1933, and in the following February was named Richfield Springs' 14th postmaster.

He was born Apr. 22, 1876 in Rockdale, son of Joseph Delos and Melissa Moyer Curtis. He came to Richfield Springs in 1901 as manager of the local branch of the Rockdale Creamery Co. He remained as manager when the plant was taken over by the Borden Company in 1914, and when the Dairymen's League assumed control in 1920. He held the post of manager until his appointment as acting postmaster.

Since his retirement, he had been a member of the office staff of Harry W. Smith Sales and Service, automobile agency.

A Democrat, Mr. Curtis became a Town of Richfield committeeman from the First District in 1914.

He served on the Village Board of Trustees for several terms, and was trustee when the gravity water supply system was installed by tunneling from Allen's Lake to the two reservoirs at the east entrance to the village.

For 35 years, from 1911 to 1946, Mr. Curtis was assistant fire chief of the Richfield Springs Fire Department, and for more than 25 years was a member of the Public Library board of trustees, serving as board president from 1940 to 1946. He was a founder of the Richfield Springs Exempt Fireman's Association in 1941 and had been its recording secretary since the founding.

He had been president of the Shurkatch Fishing Tackle Co. since it moved here from Providence, R. I. in 1937.

He married Mabel Elderkin at Sidney on Dec. 26, 1899, in the home of her sister, Mrs. Ralph E. Wilson, by the Rev. William Frisbey.

Mr. Curtis was a 50 year member of Richfield Springs Lodge 182, F&AM; Richfield Springs Chapter 222, RAM; Little Falls Commandery, Knights Templar, and Ziyara Temple, Utica. He was a member of the Universalist Church, Rockdale and was affiliated with the Presbyterian Church here.

Surviving are his wife; two sons, Clellan D, Larchmont, and Caulder, Belen, N.M.; a daughter, Mrs. Louise C. Hawe, Richfield Springs, and four grandchildren, Georgene C. Hawe, Ithaca; Scott, Bruce and Wendy Curtis, Belden, N.M.; a brother, John, Rockdale; a sister, Mrs. Henry C. Tong, St. Petersburg, Fla.; several nieces and nephews.

The funeral will be at 2 Friday from the McGrath Funeral Home, 5 W. James, with the Rev. C. Frederic Fraser, pastor of the Presbyterian Church, officiating.

A Masonic service will be conducted at 8 tomorrow night in the funeral home.

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