

[Davenport, Frank O.]

Death of Perry Man Recalls He Staged Parties for King Edward

Perry, Aug. 21.—Funeral for Frank O. Davenport, retired restaurant proprietor whose death occurred Friday evening, were conducted at the home here at 2:30 o'clock this afternoon. The services were conducted by the Rev. J. [Joseph] A. Judge of the Universalist Church. Interment was in Glenwood Cemetery.

The life of Frank Davenport was one of deep contrasts and vivid experiences. At one time he was part of the gay life that centered about London, where he was born Nov. 24, 1865. His mother, Mary Ann Davenport, was a maid-in-waiting to Queen Victoria. As a youngster Davenport played about the royal palace and here attracted the attention of the Prince of Wales, later King Edward VII.

He entered the royal household service in the capacity of waiter. While still a young man he became head waiter at the Old Cheshire Inn, the haunt of London's literary men and women. Here he was frequently called to act as head butler at private functions given by the Prince, and in time that became his sole duty.

Through the interest of the Prince, Davenport became head wine steward in the Hotel Cecil in London. Here he ruled a wine cellar reputed to be worth \$1,000,000. The hostelry was the favorite gathering place of England's political great men and was the scene of many gay revelries and parties. Davenport served in his time such men as Gladstone, Palmerston, Ruskin, William Morris, Edward and John DeRuske and hosts of others whose names still glow in the world of arts and sciences.

At one party given by the future monarch of England Davenport recalled that 165 waiters were on hand. Thirty-two courses were served on dishes of gold and silver. He was personal wine steward to Lord Kitchener. At another party given by the Prince, Sara Bernhardt was present and, as Davenport recalled recently, she was accompanied by her son. The presence of the lad nearly spelled curtains for the actress in England.

In 1901 Davenport came to America, settling near Buffalo. Several years later he opened a restaurant in Perry which he operated for 12 years. Eight years ago he removed to Arcade and opened a similar establishment there. He retired two months ago. He leaves his wife, Mrs. Anna Davenport, and two sisters in England.

*Democrat and Chronicle, Rochester NY, Tue. 22 Aug 1933*

[Davenport, Frank O.]

FRANK O. DAVENPORT

[Excerpt]

Frank O. Davenport, 68 year old retired business man, died at his home in Dolbeer street shortly after six o'clock Friday evening. He had been in failing health for the past two years and only three months ago was forced to close his restaurant in Arcade and seek rest and medical aid in Perry where he first entered the restaurant business. Death was caused by a complication of diseases.

He was born in London, England, Nov. 24, 1865, one of three sons of Mary Ann and Oran Davenport. His early life was spent in the British capital where he married and became the father of two children. Both children died at an early age and Mrs. Davenport passed away about 20 years after their marriage.

Soldiers returning from the Boer war at the turn of the century fired his imagination with stories of foreign countries. America seemed to offer the greatest opportunity but others of his companions wished to see the world. A flip of a coin decided and so he came to the United States in 1901. Attracted by the Pan-American exposition in Buffalo he settled near that city where he was employed as butler in a household for several years.

In September, 1916, he was united in marriage to Mrs. Anna Perry of Granger, N.Y. A year later they opened a restaurant in the Coburn block and continued there for twelve years. They were in Florida one year and returned north to open an eating place in Arcade. Mr. Davenport conducted a restaurant there for nearly eight years.

He is survived by the wife, and two sisters, living in England. His two brothers passed away before he came to America.

Funeral services were held Monday afternoon at 2:30 from the home. Rev. J. [Joseph] A. Judge, pastor of the First Universalist church officiated and burial was in Glenwood cemetery.

*Perry Record*, Perry NY, Wed. 23 Aug 1933

[Davenport, Frank O.]

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FRANK O. DAVENPORT

Frank O. Davenport, an extensive sketch of whose life was published in [obliterated] day forenoon at the Community Hospital in Warsaw, where he was taken for treatment following his steadily failing health.

He was born in London, England, on November 24th, 1865, one of a family of six children, three sons and three daughters. As noted in the sketch of his early life, published last week, he grew to manhood and was married in London.

He came to this country in 1901 and soon afterward located in Perry and conducted a restaurant business during a period of twelve years. He married Mrs. Ella Royce of Perry, who passed away several years ago. In 1916, he was united in marriage to Miss Anna Perry of Granger, New York, who survives him. He had no children.

Eight years ago he removed from here to Arcade, where he conducted a restaurant until last spring, when failing health compelled him to dispose of the business and he removed back to Perry on May 6th of this year.

Funeral services were held last Monday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock at his residence, No. 73 Dolbeer Place, Rev. J. [Joseph] A. Judge of the First Universalist Church officiating, with interment in Glenwood Cemetery in this village.

Among the out-of-town people in attendance at the funeral were: Mrs. Charles, Mr. and Mrs. Merriring, Miss George, Miss Belden, of Arcade; Mrs. Geoghagen, Mrs. Ida Perry, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Perry, and Mr. and Mrs. William Perry, Mr. and Mrs. Deat, of Hunts.

*Perry Herald, Perry NY, Thu. 24 Aug 1933*