

[DeFrank, Hervey Alexander]

DE FRANK, CHEF AT WOODRUFF, DIES  
EMPLOYED AT LOCAL HOTEL FOR 23 YEARS

Hervey Alexander DeFrank of 344 Factory street, for 23 years chef at the New Woodruff House, died suddenly this morning at the hotel, aged 46 years. Mr. DeFrank had been in ill health for the past four years. In November he suffered a severe attack of erysipelas, but shortly after Christmas returned to his work at the hotel, where he superintended the kitchen. He contracted grip [grippe] which was complicated with bronchitis. He had worked Monday but Tuesday was unable to attend to his duties.

He got up this morning at 2 and seated himself on a chair. His wife, who has been living at the New Woodruff since her husband had been ill, asked him if he felt very ill. He said that he was unable to move in the chair and suddenly closed his eyes. His wife, becoming alarmed, summoned a physician, and Dr. A. E. (Ilatt?), the family doctor, came immediately. C. Howard Green, manager of the Woodruff, and Henry Hodges, chief clerk, tried unsuccessfully to arouse Mr. DeFrank. When Dr. (Ilatt?) arrived he was dead. It is believed that he passed away instantly. Death was due to complications, including heart trouble. He was a large man, weighing about 250 pounds, and found difficulty in breathing while lying in bed. He rested more comfortably in a chair.

He was born May 29, 1870 in New Jersey, son of the late Hervey and Josephine Baird DeFrank, both natives of new York state. He lived in Syracuse and Utica until 23 years ago when he came to this city to live. He obtained employment at the Woodruff House under C. A. Hungerford as manager, and was soon placed in charge of the culinary department. During the past 23 years he had served as chef of that hotel and was regarded as one of the best in the country.

He was of a cheerful disposition and his good-natured smile was as constant as his never-failing good humor. Employe[e]s of the kitchen say that they never worked with a more agreeable chef. Even when pressed for time, DeFrank was cheerful and considerate of his helpers.

Surviving are his widow, Mrs. Emma L. DeFrank of this city; four brothers, Walter DeFrank of Syracuse, Judson of Brockville, Ont., Earl of Buffalo, and Albert DeFrank of Syracuse, an attorney-at-law; also three sisters, the Misses Myrtle, Mary and Lillian DeFrank of Syracuse.

He was a member of the Sons of Veterans of this city, and the Knights of Pythias, Utica lodge.

The funeral will be held from the family home, 244 Factory street, at 2 Saturday afternoon, Rev. Harry Westbrook Reed, pastor of All Souls' Universalist church, officiating. The body will be placed in the vault.

[DeFrank, Hervey Alexander]

Mr. DeFrank came from a line of soldiers. His grandfather fought in the War of 1812, and his father Hervey DeFrank fought in the Civil war, helping his fellow-countrymen to obtain their freedom.

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Transcribed on 12 Apr 2024 by Karen E. Dau of East Rochester, NY