

[Devoe, Daniel Isaac]

DANIEL I. DEVOE, FORT PLAIN, DIES
Former Knit Goods Manufacturer, County Treasurer Dies

Fort Plain—Daniel I. Devoe, a former knit goods manufacturer of Fort Plain, died Sunday night about midnight at his home, Lydius street, aged 74 years. Mr. Devoe had not been in the best of health for some time past, but had been confined to his home for only about three weeks.

Daniel I. Devoe was born January 19, 1860 in the town of Warren, Herkimer County, a son of the late Daniel A. and Maris Snell Devoe. He was educated in the old Clinton Liberal Institute of Fort Plain, graduating in 1878 and later took a business course in the Rochester Commercial College. He came to Fort Plain in 1879 and took a position as clerk in the drug store conducted by Petit & Reid, but a year later went to Canajoharie, where he engaged in the drug business with John N. Snell. Returning to Fort Plain in 1885, he became a partner with [his brother-in-law] Walter F. Shumway in the drug business in March of that year. This partnership was continued until 1893, when Mr. Devoe sold his interest. In 1893 Mr. Devoe engaged in the manufacture of knit goods in the Verdon Building, Main Street. Later the Elwood Silk Mill on Upper Canal Street was purchased and the business removed there. It was incorporated in 1902 under the name of the Fort Plain Knitting Company and the firm was dissolved several years ago, Mr. Devoe retaining the mill building. He was president and general manager of the concern, which made an excellent line of knit goods for many years.

In politics Mr. Devoe was a Republican and served one term as treasurer of Montgomery County. He was always interested in public affairs of Fort Plain. He was a member of the board of trustees of the Universalist Church and at the time of his death was chairman of the board. He also was a member of Fort Plain Lodge 433, F. & A. M. and had served as master of the lodge for four years; Hiram Union Chapter 53, Royal Arch Masons; Knights Templar Commandery No. 26, Little Falls; Ziyara Temple of the Mystic Shrine, Utica; Mohawk Valley Lodge [??], Knights of Pythias, and Fort Plain Club.

[On] May 24, 1882 he was married to Agnes Shumway, who died January 8, 1915. On June 1, 1916 Mr. Devoe married Lillian A. Failing, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Adam L. Failing, who survives together with one daughter by his first marriage, Ethel, wife of E. Mercer Weiskotten of Utica; two sisters, Mrs. Frank W. Bauder, Fort Plain and Mrs. Charlotte Zoller, West Union, Iowa. The funeral arrangements have not yet been made, but services will probably be held Wednesday.

Daily Press, Utica NY, Tue. 27 Feb 1934

Transcribed on 28 Jan 2009 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY

[Devoe, Daniel Isaac]

DANIEL I. DEVOE, PROMINENT RESIDENT OF
FORT PLAIN AND FORMER MANUFACTURER, DIES
Deceased Was Born in Herkimer County a Descendant of Pioneer
Families; Was President and General Manager of Fort Plain Knitting
Co. and Served as G.O.P. Treasurer of County

FORT PLAIN—Daniel I. Devoe, 74, a leading citizen and former knit goods manufacturer of Fort Plain died Sunday about midnight at his home, Lydius street. Mr. Devoe had not been in the best of health for some time past, but had been confined to his home for only about weeks.

Daniel I. Devoe was born January 19, 1860 in the town of Warren, Herkimer county, a son of the late Daniel A. and Maria Snell Devoe. He was a descendant of families prominent in this section as far back as the Revolutionary War. He was educated in the old Clinton Liberal Institute of Fort Plain [a Universalist school], being graduated in 1878 and later took a business course in the Rochester Commercial College.

He came to Fort Plain in 1879 and took a position as clerk in the drug store conducted by Petit & Reid, but a year later went to Canajoharie where he engaged in the drug business with John N. Snell, returning again to Fort Plain in 1886 when he became a partner with Walter F. Shumway in the drug business in March of that year, the firm name being Devoe & Shumway. This partnership was continued until 1893 when Mr. Devoe sold his interest to his partner, who now conducts the business.

In 1893 Mr. Devoe engaged in the manufacture of knit goods being located in the Yerdon building, Main street. Later the Elwood silk mill on Upper Canal street was purchased and the business removed there. It was incorporated in 1902 under the name of the Fort Plain Knitting Company and the firm was dissolved several years ago, Mr. Devoe retaining the mill building. He was president and general manager of the concern which made an excellent line of knit goods for many years.

In politics Mr. Devoe was a Republican and served one term as treasurer of Montgomery county. He was always interested in public affairs of Fort Plain. He was a member of the Universalist church and at the time of his death was chairman of the board. He also was a member of Fort Plain Lodge, 433, F. and A. M., and had served as master of the lodge for four years; Hiram Union Chapter, 53, Royal Arch Masons; Knights Templars Commandery, 26, of Little Falls; Ziyara Temple of the Mystic Shrine, Utica; Mohawk Valley Lodge, 66, Knights of Pythias and Fort Plain Club.

[On] May 24, 1882 he was married to Agnes Shumway, who died January 8, 1915. On June 1, 1916 Mr. Devoe married Lillian A. Failing, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Adam L. Failing, who survives together with one daughter by his first marriage, Ethel, wife of E. Mercer Weiskotten of Utica; two sisters, Mrs. Frank W. Bauder of Fort Plain and Mrs. Charlotte Zoller of West Union, Iowa.

The funeral arrangements have not yet been made, but services will probably be held Wednesday.

Morning Herald, Gloversville NY, Tue. 27 Feb 1934

Transcribed on 15 Jan 2011 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY

[Devoe, Daniel Isaac]

Daniel I. Devoe

Daniel I. Devoe died at his home on Lydius street, Fort Plain, on Sunday night, February 25. Mr. Devoe had been in ill health for several years but been confined to his home only during the past few months. Mr. Devoe had been one of Fort Plain's most prominent citizens for 45 years and his passing has created widespread sorrow in the town in which he passed so many years of his active and fruitful life. Daniel Isaac Devoe was the son of Daniel Anthony Devoe and Maria Snell of Fordsbush. The Devoe family is of pioneer Colonial stock. Anthony Devoe moved from present Rensselaer county to Andrustown in 1798. Cornelius Devoe, his son, was born there and was a farmer of Warren, Herkimer county.

Daniel Anthony Devoe, son of Cornelius Devoe, was born in Warren April 19, 1820. He leased and subsequently bought a farm in the town of Warren. In 1863 he purchased a 200-acre farm on Clinton's road, just south of its junction with Seeber's Lane. He moved to this place and lived in the handsome brick house standing on a knoll and overlooking a considerable extent of fertile farming country. The Harvey Wagner farm stood directly opposite the Devoe place. Daniel Anthony Devoe was prominent in the life of his day and acted as a trustee of the Church of the Messiah, Universalist, Fort Plain. He died December 28, 1898. He has the following children: Nelson, who died at the age of 4; Margaret Ann (Mrs. Schuyler Duryee of Everett, Washington); Charlotte (wife of Dr. Alvero Zoller of West Union, Iowa); Ida (who died at an early age); Demetra Estelle (Mrs. Frank W. Bauder, Fort Plain); Daniel I. Devoe, who was born at the family home in Warren on January 19, 1860. He moved to the town of Canajoharie when his father bought land in that town in 1863. Following his schooling in the local district school, he entered Clinton Liberal Institute, then at Clinton, from which he graduated in 1878. He later attended the Rochester Business College. In 1879, Mr. Devoe came to Fort Plain where he took a position as clerk in the drug store conducted by Pettit and Reid. In 1880 he went into the drug business in Canajoharie in partnership with John N. Snell. Later Thomas E. Dygert bought Snell's interest, after which the firm became Devoe and Dygert. In 1885 Mr. Devoe returned to Fort Plain, after selling his interests in the Canajoharie store. D. I. Devoe and his brother-in-law, Walter F. Shumway, formed the partnership known as Devoe and Shumway and bought out the long-established drug business, then conducted by Pettit and Smith. Mr. Devoe then became interested in the manufacture of knit underwear and, in 1893, he sold his share in the drug business to Mr. Shumway, who has conducted it ever since. Mr. Devoe installed his knit goods business in the former Elwood silk factory on Upper Canal street. In 1902, it was incorporated as the Fort Plain Knitting Co., and, after a long time, it did a very extensive business. Conditions in the knit goods business became unfavorable and Mr. Devoe closed his mill in 1928 and retired from active business. For nearly half a century—47 years to be exact—D. I. Devoe was a trustee of the Universalist church of Fort Plain and did a tremendous work toward its upbringing.

Mr. Devoe was a member of Fort Plain lodge, No. 433, F. and A. M., in which he was master of four years; Hiram Union Chapter, No. 53, Royal Arch Masons;

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Knights Templar Commandery, No. 26, Little Falls; Ziyara Temple of the Mystic Shrine of Utica. Mr. Devoe was a member of the Knights of Pythias. Before he retired from business, he was a member of the present Fort Plain Community Club.

Mr. Devoe was a lifelong member of the Republican party and was a successful candidate for county treasurer, a position which he held for three years.

On May 24, 1882, Mr. Devoe was married to Agnes E. Shumway, daughter of Joseph Hill Shumway and Cornelia Van Horne Shumway. They had one child, Ethel, now Mrs. Eugene Mercer Weiskotten of Utica. Mrs. Devoe died on January 8, 1915. Mr. Devoe married Miss Lillian Adria Failing on June 1, 1916. Mrs. Devoe is the daughter of the late Adam L. Failing and Rachel Smith Failing. A number of years ago, Mr. Devoe purchased the present handsome brick Devoe residence on Lydius street. Mr. Devoe was a man of culture, with a taste for good literature which he gratified in his excellent library. He was very much interested in the history of the Mohawk valley and its Indians and he possessed a fine, large and varied collection of Mohawk Indian and other relics, which he had gathered during his lifetime. Mr. Devoe was a man of genial nature with a kindly outlook on life and a most happy and friendly feeling for mankind. He was deeply interested in the progress and prosperity of Fort Plain and did everything in his power to promote it. He was always ready to assist anyone and his generousities were many.

His many friends, who enjoyed his genial and cultured society and his kindly personality deeply feel the loss of one of Fort Plain's outstanding citizens and extend to his bereaved wife and daughter, their most sincere sympathy.

Mr. Devoe became a trustee of the Fort Plain Cemetery Association in 1914 and has [sic] served as president since 1917. He gave unstintingly of himself to the development of the cemetery and, receiving a vision from the late William C. Rapp, worked with his son, William C. Rapp, the present superintendent, toward the perfection of our beautiful cemetery.

The funeral, with Masonic services conducted by C. B. Snell, was held at the home at 2:30 Wednesday. Officiating clergyman, Rev. Rufus Dix, pastor of the Universalist church, assisted by the Rev. E. R. Kruizenga, pastor of the Reformed church.

Mr. Devoe is survived by his wife; his daughter, Mrs. E. Mercer Weiskotten, Utica; two sisters, Mrs. Charlotte N. Zoller, West Union, Iowa, and Mrs. Frank W. Bauder, Fort Plain, and several nephews and nieces.

Fort Plain Standard, Fort Plain NY, Thu. 1 Mar 1934

Transcribed on 15 May 2017 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY