

[Field, Brayton A.]

JUDGE BRAYTON A. FIELD

William T. Field, city councilman in Watertown, was conversing by telephone with his mother, Mrs. Antoinette T. Field on April 16 and naturally enquired about his father, Judge Brayton A. Field, who was in his eighty-seventh year and still active in the law firm, Field & Swan. The mother reported that the father, who had been suffering from a cold and had not gone to his office that day, was feeling better. Five minutes later Mrs. Field telephoned to her son, that the Judge had fallen to the floor. A physician was summoned but it was too late. Coronary thrombosis was the cause of his death and it was an easy way to go.

Judge Field was born on a farm in Hounsfield with an ancestry which went back to 1629 when Zechariah Field sailed from England for Boston. He graduated from the Watertown High School in 1873. A year of poor health followed and then four years at Dartmouth College. Following his graduation he was principal of the Proctor Academy in Andover, N.H., for a year and then was teacher in the Lamon Street school in Watertown. His interest was in law and he studied in the offices of O'Brien, Emerson & Ward, being admitted to the bar in 1886. He entered a partnership in the practice of law with Judge E. C. Emerson. Five years later, he formed a law partnership with Mason M. Swan and for thirty-eight years this partnership was continued. He was special city judge in 1904. His law practice included criminal cases in his first years, but in later years it was identified with the Federal Land Bank, which loans government money to farmers. For many years he was village attorney for Dexter.

He was member of the City Board of Health for seven years and president of the Bureau of Charities and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals for a longer period. For many years, he served All Souls Universalist Church as a trustee and president of its board of trustees. He was a member of the building committee for the erection of the stone edifice of the society. He was superintendent of the church school for eleven years and was the representative of the group, twenty-seven years ago, to appear before the trustees of the Universalist General Convention urging the formation of the Universalist General Sunday School Association. He was president of the New York State Convention of Universalists for two terms, beginning in 1919 and a member of the executive board for ten years. He was a member of the committee of three which drafted the amendment to the constitution of St. Lawrence University which made the Theological School a separate institution and for many years he was a trustee of the School. He was also president of the Black River Association of Universalists

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and chairman of the finance committee of the Jefferson County Inter-denominational Sunday School Association.

He was married to Miss Antoinette E. Thompson on April 27, 1881. Surviving him are his wife; four children, Miss Nellie L. Field and William T. Field of Watertown, Brayton W. Field of Washington, D.C., and Mrs. Vern A. Fogg of Ithaca; a sister, Mrs. Carrie F. Merrill of Cleveland; a niece and six grandchildren.

The Rev. Harold H. Niles, pastor of All Souls Church, conducted the funeral service in the Field home on April 18. The bearers were members of the board of trustees of the church. Judge Field was chairman of the committee which recommended the election of Dr. Harry Westbrook Reed to the pastorate of this church and his son, William T. Field, was similarly chairman of the committee which recommended the election of Mr. Niles to this pastorate.

*Empire State Universalist, Cortland NY, May 1940*

Transcribed on 7 Apr 2013 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY