

[Finehout, John]

## JOHN FINEOUT

By the death of John Finehout, the village has lost a citizen of prominence, a business man of unusual success and one who will be missed from nearly every walk of life. He was conspicuous in business, in politics and in general affairs and was always pointed to as a man of honor, uprightness and progressive ideas. His death occurred at 10 a.m. last Friday and was the result of heart failure. No one knew of his serious illness and his death came as a great shock to all. Mr. Finehout was born in 1829 in the town of Minden and after 17 years on a farm he went to work for Solomon Kellar & Co., at Fort Plain and a few years later, having acquired correct business methods by actual experiences, he entered into partnership with Rufus Lipe of Fort Plain, carrying on a crockery business, which after three years he sold to his partner and went in business with his brother-in-law, D. O. Norton. In 1860, Mr. Finehout withdrew and moved to this village where he has since been engaged in business the last few years with his son Elmer J. Finehout, under the firm name of John Finehout & Son.

During his residence here he was often a candidate for office on the democratic ticket and a number of times held the highest political positions his own townsmen could confer upon him as well as the more important ones of the county. Mr. Finehout received the largest complimentary vote ever given any candidate from this town the second time he ran for county treasurer and was elected, having for his opponent Julius E. Smith of Amsterdam. For four terms he was elected supervisor from the town, during which time he was honored with a call to its chairmanship. He also served this village for a number of years as its president and held other appointive offices of public trust and was often called into service as an administrator of large estates. In every position of public or private trust he proved faithful and won the esteem of all with whom he came in contact.

Besides a widow whose maiden name was Louise Norton, and who has for forty-five years been a faithful and devoted wife, the deceased leaves two sons, Willard H. Finehout, teller of the Spraker Bank, [and] Elmer J. Finehout, who was associated with his father in business; three daughters, Mrs. C. F. Wheelock, whose husband is connected with the state board of regents; Mrs. G. V. Rapp, whose husband is extensively engaged in the stone business; and Mrs. J. H. Sommerville, widow of Mr. Sommerville who was road master of this division of the West Shore and met his untimely death some time ago at Little Falls. Mr. Finehout was a mason, a member of the Universalist church, and a trustee of Clinton Liberal Institute of Fort Plain [a Universalist school].

[Finehout, John]

The funeral was held from his late residence on East hill yesterday afternoon. Rev. H. W. Carr, pastor of the Universalist church of Fort Plain officiated, assisted by W. M. Baum, jr., of St. Mark's Lutheran church of this village.

The house was packed with sympathetic relatives and friends who had gathered to pay tribute of respect to a good man. Many prominent persons were present from out of town as well as the business men of this village who attended in a body. The remains were taken to Fort Plain for interment.

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