

[Frake, May E. Nott]

Mrs. May E. Nott Frake Dies at 83

Mrs. May E. Nott Frake, 83, formerly of the Hotel Woodruff, who, with her husband, the late Clifford H. Frake, owned an extensive collection of bells, died at 10:55 Thursday night in the Madonna home of the Mercy hospital. Death was attributed chiefly to infirmities of old age.

Mrs. Frake lived at the hotel until Nov. 17 when she entered the Madonna home. With the exception of the period Aug. 8 to 17, when she was a patient in the hospital, she had since been at the nursing home.

The funeral will be Monday afternoon at 2 at the Cleveland funeral home. Rev. Blaine Hartford, pastor of the All Souls Universalist church, will officiate. Burial will be in Brookside cemetery.

Surviving her are a step-daughter and a step-son, Mrs. Farvor O. (Harriet M. Frake) Kimbrell, Gouverneur, and J. Madison Frake, Syracuse.

Her husband, who was a retired chief electrical engineer of the Agricultural Insurance company, died in the House of the Good Samaritan Nov. 9, 1955, at the age of 77 years.

Her half-sister, Mrs. Clara G. Owens, widow of Owen R. Owens, died in the Mercy Hospital Nov. 27, 1957, at the age of 86. Another half-sister, Miss Grace B. Nott, died here Nov. 18, 1945, at the age of 77.

Mrs. Frake was born in Watertown May 26, 1882, a daughter of J. Wallace and Allie Ward Nott.

Her father, J. W. Nott, was long a prominent druggist of this city and for 47 years had a drug store in the old Nott block which stood at the east end of Public Square, near the First Baptist Church.

Her paternal grandfather, Reuben Nott, and his six sons once operated the old American House, an early Watertown hotel which stood where the Woolworth building is now.

Before he took over the management of the American House in 1861, Reuben Nott, who once lived on a farm at Somerville, was the sheriff of St. Lawrence county.

Miss Nott was educated in the local public schools and was graduated from the Watertown High school in 1900. She left Watertown as a young woman and for 30 years was a librarian on the staff of the Brooklyn public library. Later, she was for a few years employed in the office of a New York city law firm.

In June, 1937, she returned to this city from New York to reside with her sister, Mrs. Owens, who lived at 320 Winslow street. Later, she was a secretary at the Red Cross blood donor office in the Electric building. After the death of Mr. Owens, Mrs. Owens and Mrs. Frake—then Miss Nott—went to live at the Hotel Woodruff.

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She was married to Clifford H. Frake of this city [on] April 2, 1945, in a ceremony performed at the All Souls Universalist church by Rev. Dr. Harold H. Niles, then the pastor of the church.

Mr. and Mrs. Frake were known throughout this section for their large collection of bells, probably the only one of its kind in this section of the state. It included bells from at least 21 countries. In the rare group were bells dating from before the birth of Christ to recent time, weighing variously from more than 40 pounds to less than one pound, and made of glass, wood, porcelain and cloisonne enamel, as well as ordinary metal.

Mr. Frake started his unique hobby of collecting bells nearly 30 years ago. Mrs. Frake assisted him in gathering the large assortment of bells, many of which they acquired in their extensive travels in this country and Canada.

Mrs. Frake disposed of most of the collection, which numbered more than 400 items, after her husband died nearly ten years ago.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Frake were members of the American Bell association, having joined in June, 1948.

Mrs. Frake was a member of the All Souls Universalist church and its women's society. She was a former member of the Y.W.C.A. and its Forum.

She was a member also of the board of trustees of the Children's Home of Jefferson county and a member of the Outlook club.

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Transcribed on 23 Dec 2023 by Karen E. Dau of East Rochester, NY