

[Gardinier, William J.]

W. J. Gardinier Dies, 96; Last Spanish War Veteran

Herkimer—William J. Gardinier, 96, formerly of 437 N. Prospect St., died last night in Three Maples Rest Home, Fort Herkimer, where he had lived for the past three years.

He was the last area veteran of the Spanish American War and had been a practicing attorney in Herkimer for the past 68 years.

He was born in the Town of Danube, was educated at Little Falls Academy and was a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Cornell University in 1893. He was admitted to the bar in 1895 and practiced law in Herkimer until his retirement in 1963.

He married Minnie Lee in Herkimer in 1896. She died in 1952. He served as Herkimer village attorney from 1899 to 1901 and was one of the founders of the Herkimer County Bar Association. He served as its secretary for 36 years and was the last charter member of the group. Since 1916 he was a director and attorney for the Herkimer Savings and Loan Association.

During the Spanish American War he served with the 31st Separate Company of Mohawk. He was a member and past commander of the Col. John W. Vrooman Camp, United Spanish American War Veterans.

He was a member of the Herkimer Masonic Lodge and served as its master in 1915. He was a member of the First Universalist Church and served as its secretary for 50 years.

He leaves two sons, Russell, Ilion and D. Elton, Kecoughlin, Va.; and a daughter, Mrs. Erwin (Eileen) Klippel, Ilion.

The funeral will be at 2 Sunday from the Fenner Funeral Home, with the Rev. A. Lynn Booth, pastor of the Universalist Church, officiating. Burial will be in the Oak Hill Cemetery.

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