

[Gunnison, Blanche Eaton]

WIDOW OF WALTER BALFOUR GUNNISON DIES
Had Lived in Massachusetts Ever Since His Death in 1918

The death in South Egremont, Mass. on Tue. last of Mrs. Blanche Eaton Gunnison, 90 years of age, marks the passing of another member of a once-interesting St. Lawrence family, the Gunnisons. Mrs. Blanche Gunnison was the widow of Dr. Walter B. Gunnison, first principal of Erasmus Hall High School, who during his twenty years of principalship of that institution was credited with sending more boys and girls to Lawrence University than any other person.

Dr. Walter Gunnison was one of the three Gunnison boys who came to Canton with their widowed mother and lived for some years on what is now College Street. Their father Rev. Nathaniel Gunnison, a Universalist minister, died while serving a church in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and the widow elected to bring her family to Canton so that the boys might get their education at St. Lawrence University.

Almon Gunnison was the oldest of the three boys. He became a great Universalist minister and then a great president of St. Lawrence University. Walter Gunnison was the second. He became a teacher at St. Lawrence, then a teacher in Brooklyn and from 1896 to 1916 was principal of Erasmus Hall High School. It was he who founded the first college fraternity at St. Lawrence, now Beta Theta Pi chapter, and an oil portrait of him now hangs in the Young-Abbott Memorial Chapter Temple. The third of the three Gunnison boys was Herbert, who like both his brothers came to be a trustee of St. Lawrence University. It was Herbert F. Gunnison who also became the owner and publisher of the Brooklyn Daily Eagle and with St. Clair McKelway developed the newspaper into one of the great city dailies of the time. Herbert Gunnison's son, Raymond Gunnison, is now a trustee of St. Lawrence.

Dr. Walter B. Gunnison died in 1918. His widow has since resided at their Massachusetts summer home.

Surviving are three daughters: Miss Alice Gunnison of South Egremont; Mrs. Walter E. Caten of Mamaroneck, N.Y.; and Mrs. Alexander of Upper Montclair, N.J.; and two sons, A. Gage and Stanley E. Gunnison.

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