

## [Hale, Grace Robinson]

### Grace Robinson Hale Passes in Hospital THE FIRST WOMAN AND ONLY WOMAN ATTORNEY IN NORTHERN N.Y.

Mrs. Grace Robinson Hale, for many years a practicing attorney in Canton and Gouverneur, and the widow of the late Charles M. Hale, a member of the St. Lawrence county bar, and for nearly fifty years clerk of the board of supervisors of St. Lawrence County, passed away at Ogdensburg Sunday following a period of declining health. She had been at Canton Community Hospital for a time during her late illness, but was removed to an Ogdensburg hospital where the end came.

The body was brought to the Sprague Funeral Home, Canton, and services will be conducted therefrom today at 2:30, the Rev. Edna P. Bruner, minister of the First Universalist Church, officiating. Burial will be made in Evergreen where her husband and a son, the late Attorney Robert Hale, sleep.

Mrs. Hale was born in Eugenia, Ont., Canada, on June 21, 1870, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Mortimer Robinson. Her father was a lighthouse keeper on the Canadian side of the river. When she was a small child the family removed to New York State and resided at or near Thousand Island Park for some time. Later they removed to Gouverneur while the daughter, Grace Robinson, was still a young girl.

She was educated in the Gouverneur village schools, attending the old Gouverneur Academy, formerly the Wesleyan Seminary. She was a very fine student while in school and during these formative years looked to the law as a vocation. She studied at the law office of the late Judge Vasco P. Abbott and was admitted to practice around fifty years ago.

In the nineties, after she had entered on the practice of law she married Attorney Charles M. Hale. They had an office in Gouverneur for a time. Here their first son, Robert, was born. They moved to Canton over forty years ago. At this time Mr. Hale was serving as clerk of the Board of Supervisors of St. Lawrence County, clerk of the Surrogate's Court and County Treasurer's clerk. Two sons were born to Mr. and Mrs. Hale after coming to Canton, Clifford and Everett.

Later on Mrs. Hale opened an office for the practice of law in Canton and with her for some years was associated her husband, who gradually retired from the clerkships, excepting clerk of the Board and serve[d] as a member of the town board and Special County Judge, retiring from this last position shortly before his death in 1933.

Mrs. Hale and her son, Robert, engaged in the law business in Canton for several years, and during a portion of this time had offices in Canton and Gouverneur. Following the death of her son, Robert, she retired from the

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practice of law and has been inactive since. During the very recent years she has not been well.

Mrs. Hale was one of the first woman attorneys in the state, and the first in Northern New York. She was an excellent lawyer and during health had a considerable practice. She was a temperance woman, a member of the W.T.C.U. She was on the firing line in the years the fight was being made for votes for women. She was always found on the right side of moral issues.

Mrs. Hale leaves two sons, Clifford of Pleasant Valley, N.Y. and Everett of Mooerstown, N.J. There are three grandchildren, Nancy, daughter of Clifford, and Mary and Linda, daughters of Everett. There are also a number of cousins, living in the vicinity of Hammond and there are also relatives of Mr. Hale, in Norwood and Potsdam, her relatives by marriage.

Everett Hale arrived in Canton over the week end and Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Hale drove up arriving yesterday.

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