

[House, Oscar W.]

OSCAR W. HOUSE, ILL OF PNEUMONIA, DIES

He Succumbs After Illness of Only Ten Days

WELL KNOWN MEAT CUTTER

He Was Widely Known As a Meat Man—

In His Youth He Was a Member of the Famous House Drum Corps

Oscar W. House, aged 70 years, well known meat cutter of this city, passed away this morning at 7:30 at his home, 1034 Bronson street, following an illness of ten days. Mr. House was taken ill with pneumonia Monday, Jan. 10. His condition grew gradually worse until his passing this morning. Although it was known that his condition was serious his passing was not wholly expected by the family. Last spring he suffered a fainting spell and was forced to remain at home for about three weeks. Again last fall he was ill and did not work for several days. But he had worked recently up to the time of his last illness, having fully recovered from the effects of the previous attacks. A recent attack of grip [influenza] greatly weakened him.

Mr. House was born in the town of Pamela, Dec. 20, 1845, the son of Hiram K. and Sarah J. Wheeler House, old residents of Jefferson county. He was one of a family of six children, only one of whom survives. The family consisted of the late Alexander House, who died about nine years ago; the late Herbert, who died about 22 years ago; Oscar; Mrs. Helen F. Sixberry, who passed away about (23?) years ago; Mrs. Carrie House Moyer of Pamela, and Mrs. Emma J. House O'Connor, who died Oct. 4, 1915.

Mr. House spent his early life until about 18 years old in the town of Pamela, assisting his father work the farm. He went to live in Brownville when a young man and later found employment with Crummy & Londwich in the meat business in this city nearly a half a century ago. Serving an apprenticeship with them he later engaged in business for himself, establishing a shop in Brownville, which he conducted for 15 years. For another 15 years he was with J. A. Reese, who conducted a market on Arsenal street. Fifteen years ago he became connected with Jennings & Gates, on Public Square, and was employed until his recent illness with H. B. Gates, the successor of that firm, who now conducts the business in the Washington market in the Taggart building. Mr. House was unquestionably the best known meat cutter in the city.

He was married Jan. 7, 1872, in Watertown, to Miss Alice E. Smith, daughter of the late Stewart and Elmina Boardman Smith, by the Rev. Mr. Hersey, former pastor of the old Universalist church of this city, when that edifice stood on the site of the present Hotel Leray.

The House family were well known in this section for their ability as drummers. Mr. House's father, Hiram K. House, one of the oldest

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inhabitants of Jefferson county, who died at his son's home in this city, Saturday, Sept. 14, 1907, was born in Danube, Montgomery county, Aug. 26, 1917, a son of David and Margaret House, who were descendants of the earliest settlers of the Mohawk valley. When Hiram House was four years old his parents came to Pamela and [he] remained there until he was 30 years old, when he moved to Brownville. During Hiram House's boyhood his father had him trained in drumming and he appeared at all the general trainings in the village. He taught his sons, Alexander, Oscar, and Herbert, the art of drumming and the House boys drum corps gained wide popularity. Capt. Daniel Augsbury's company and Col. Camp's heavy artillery usually marched to the music furnished by the Pamela drum corps, of which Mr. House, his father and two brothers were members.

At one time this group of musicians and two fifers, the late John Countryman and Henry Huntington, took the first prize in a contest in this city against the old 35th battalion drum corps at [the] fair grounds. Oscar House's father, being too old to enlist at the time of the outbreak of the war, was made instructor in drumming at Madison Barracks and Staten Island.

In 1861 at the age of 16 years Mr. House tried to enter the United States army as a private through the recruiting station at Sackets Harbor. He was refused admittance, however, because of an injury received in childhood as a result of a kick from a horse.

He was a member of the All Souls Universalist church and of the following lodges: Jefferson union lodge, No. 224, I.O.O.F; Montezuma Encampment, No. 27, I.O.O.F., and Court Watertown, No. 465, I.O.O.F. He was recently entered on the retired benefit list in the latter lodge, having reached the age of 70 years.

He is survived by his widow; two sons, Albert Stewart House of Adams, formerly a well known musician of this city and instructor in the mandolin, and now foreman of the composing room of the Adams Journal; and Arthur W. House, of this city, a well known bass soloist. He also leaves one sister, Mrs. Carrie L. Moyer of Pamela, the last of the original family, and three grandchildren, Oscar W. House, jr., and Helen Frances House of Adams and Miss Hazel Ruth House of Boston.

The funeral services are as yet incomplete but will be held from the family home and will be in charge of the Odd Fellows.

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