

[Howe, Charles Parker]

PROMINENT HARDWARE DEALER DIES
CHARLES P. HOWE SUFFERS FATAL HEART ATTACK
Had Been in Business on Main Street for Fifty Years

Scarcely had word reached the people of Canton Wednesday of the death of Professor H. P. Morrell than it was learned that Charles P. Howe had been stricken with a fatal heart attack that morning at his Judson street home. These two messages cast gloom over this village. Taken acutely ill at three in the morning Mr. Howe's condition grew steadily worse during the day. A consultation of physicians brought forth no hope of recovery and his death occurred at 6:30 that evening.

The funeral was held from the home at two-thirty Saturday afternoon. Fifty-six Sir Knights and Masons from the Masonic Lodge attended in a body. The services were conducted by the Commandery. Dr. Richard Eddy Sykes [Universalist] assisted by offering prayer. The burial was in Fairview Cemetery. The merchants of Canton closed their places of business until 3:30 p.m. Among the many floral tributes, that by Canton's business men was outstanding.

To write of Charles Howe is to review fifty years spent as a business man in Canton, fifty years in which his qualities as a friend will not soon be forgotten. Entering the hardware business at an early age he was still "in the harness" up to the end.

He was born in Parishville on February 9, 1865, his parents being Roderick and Ardelia Chamberlain Howe. Both the father and mother had come to Parishville from New Hampshire. Of their four children two—Charles and Wesley—went to work shoulder to shoulder as business partners for many years in Canton. Charles led the way. When only fifteen years of age he left his Parishville home and went to Colton, where he began learning the hardware, heating and plumbing business. From Colton he went to Potsdam to work for Frank Matthews, and in [1888?] arrived in Canton to become employed by his uncle, J. P. Howe, who was conducting a hardware business at the lower end of Main street where Seidel's furniture is now located, in partnership with Charles Tallman.

It was not long after their arrival before Mr. Tallman's interest was purchased and from then until 1894 the business continued under the name of J. P. Howe & Co. Wesley Howe's duties were largely those of bookkeeping and store management while Charles attended to the shop work where he became skilled in the trade.

In 1894 the two brothers severed their connection with their uncle and on the same day bought out the long established Sackrider business on the corner of Main and Hodskin streets. They continued in this location twenty-eight years, when in 1922 they moved back down the street to where they had formerly been located with their uncle. The death of Wesley Howe in 1925 terminated the partnership. Buying out Wesley's interest the business from then on has been continued as Charles P. Howe & Company. It is interesting to note that when this occurred the business again moved up the street to its old corner location and continued there until 1931, when Mr. Howe purchased the Jamieson Brothers hardware business and block. Thus in the course of fifty years Charles Howe had seen three other firms engaged in a trade similar to his, absorbed by himself and his associates. It

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was on moving to the present site, formerly the Jamieson store, that Mr. Howe took in with him his two sons, Milford and Leon. The latter withdrew from active participation in the business about a year ago and established the Howe Gas and Appliance Company, but Milford had remained with his father, and during the past year a third son, E. Barton, who was former Professor of English at Elmira College, remained here to assist his father with the details of bookkeeping. For about a year Mr. Howe had been suffering from a slight heart difficulty and had turned over much of the business to his sons.

Throughout his entire business experience the major part of Charles Howe's time had been devoted to the mechanical, or shop end of the trade. At least this was so until the death of Wesley Howe in 1925. In this field Mr. Howe gained a wide reputation for the thoroughness of workmanship turned out under his direction, and his dependability. When the late A. Barton Hepburn built and presented libraries to the various communities in this county which he once served as School Commissioner, he designated Howe's to do all the heating and plumbing. As a result, and for a number of years the firm's business was in no small way occupied with these many fine contracts.

On August 15, 1894 Mr. Howe was married to Miss Cordelia Pelsue of Canton, by Dr. James M. Payson. Their entire married life was spent in their home on Judson street. Mrs. Howe's death occurred on June 29, 1937.

A somewhat quiet, but likeable man, Mr. Howe's business prevented him from entering very largely into any official life in the community. However, for a period of many years he had served as one of the District School Commissioners of the Fifth Supervisory District. He had been a member of The Club and had been active in Canton's three Masonic orders, St. Lawrence Lodge, St. Lawrence Chapter and St. Lawrence Commandery. He was at one time a member of the Stillwater Club, and later a member of the Rainbow Rod and Gun Club. For a number of years he had owned a camp and small holding of forest land in Clare where he and his sons and their families enjoyed hunting and woods life. He was among those who organized Fairview Cemetery and had served as President of the Fairview Cemetery Association.

Surviving are his four sons: E. Barton, who as previously mentioned, is a former Professor of English at Elmira College; Donald C. Howe, trust officer of the Park Avenue Branch of the Chase National Bank in New York; Milford W. Howe, who has been in business with his father for the past eight years; and Leon Howe, of the Howe Gas & Appliance Company.

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