

[Illingworth, Harry R.]

HARRY R. ILLINGWORTH, LONG CONNECTED WITH MOHAWK VALLEY COTTON MILL, DIED AT HIS HOME

Harry R. Illingworth, for [?] years superintendent of power at the Mohawk Valley Cotton Mills, died at his home, [?] Jewett place, at 8:30 a.m. to-day. He was one of the best known steam engineers in Central New York and had operated some of the largest power plants in this section, but in the last few years had not been active in this profession. In Masonic circles he was especially well known.

Mr. Illingworth's illness began in May, 1941. While on a business trip he suffered a stroke of paralysis in Buffalo. Returning to his home, which at that time was in Amsterdam, he partially recovered, though his health was somewhat impaired. He removed with his family to this city, his former home, and he continued to act as representative of a New York oil company in Utica and vicinity. About two months ago his condition took a turn for the worse, and for seven weeks he had been confined to his bed, gradually failing until the end came.

Possessing a sociable disposition and a liking for the company of others, Mr. Illingworth made many friends, all of whom sympathized with him in the affliction that cast a cloud over his recent years. He was an able engineer and an authority on matters of engineering, and among men of that craft his opinions were sought and highly respected.

Harry R. Illingworth was born in Providence, R.I. on Jan. 29, [1854?], a son of the late Joseph J. and Mary Byrne Illingworth. His father was an engineer and skilled mechanic of more than local reputation, who had operated the power plant of the Utica Steam Cotton Mills for [42?] years. The Illingworths were English people and it was in England that the elder Illingworth learned his trade.

Coming to Utica as a child, Harry Illingworth attended the public schools and James Lombard's private school. In [1892?] he found employment with the Utica Steam Gauge Company, and a year later went to Providence, R.I. to enter the employ of the George H. Corliss Steam Engine Company, builders of the famous Corliss engines. Desiring to learn as much as possible of the principles of engineering, he returned to Utica and took a position under his father at the Utica Steam Cotton Mills.

He remained there until the spring of [?], when the Mohawk Valley Cotton Mills were completed and he was appointed by the late George H. Wiley as superintendent of power in the big factory, where he found his principal life work.

In 1911 Mr. Illingworth received a very attractive offer to assume a similar position with the Stephen Sanford Company, manufacturers of carpets, in Amsterdam, which place he accepted and filled until 1914, when

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he retired to become a representative of Leonard & Ellis, the Valvoline Oil Company of New York City. He also served as a consulting engineer.

Mr. Illingworth had invented several attachments for steam and gas engines, and for a while was engaged in manufacturing gas engines as one of the proprietors of the Utica Gas Engine Works on Jefferson avenue. He was a lifelong student of engineering and for some years conducted a school for engineers, which had been established by his father and was located for a time in the Mann Building. Many local engineers doubtless remember with gratitude the instructions they receive from him.

Mr. Illingworth was a member of the National Association of Steam Engineers and had been president of the local branch of that society. He was a charter member of the Engineers' Association of Utica. He was a member of the Oriental Lodge, F.& A.M., and the Masonic Craftsmen's Club. In recent years he spent much time at the Masonic Temple and there he will be greatly missed.

On August [3?], 1876 Mr. Illingworth and Miss Louise Adelaide Seiler, only child of the late Andrew and Mary Seiler, of this city, were married. Of their seven children, four are living: Mrs. Minnie Illingworth-Wright and Miss Ida Adelaide Illingworth of this city; George H. Corliss Illingworth of Cincinnati and Miss Emily Illingworth of New York city. He leaves one grandchild, Louise Illingworth Durfee of Utica.

Mr. Illingworth was a member of the Universalist Church and a Republican in politics. He was of a happy, jovial disposition and a witty companion, generous and kindly. Many times he found positions for other engineers, and no one knows how many hours he spent in helping to solve knotty problems for others. There are many who will sincerely wish that his life might have been extended to a fuller span, and all will say that the years given him were filled with useful, helpful deeds.

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