

[Jackson, John Charles]

DR. JOHN C. JACKSON.

Prominent Physician, of Fort Plain, Died on Monday Evening

Dr. John C. Jackson died at his home on Centre street, Fort Plain, on Monday evening at 8 o'clock. He was taken ill only a few days previously with a sudden attack of angina pectoris. Dr. Jackson was a man of robust physique, who maintained an appearance of rugged health up to a few weeks before his death. Because of a stress of professional duties and anxiety attendant upon the illness of relatives, Dr. Jackson had recently complained of feeling unwell. He had been constantly in attendance upon his brother-in-law, Dr. Charles P. Wagner, during the latter's final illness.

Dr. Jackson was taken ill last Wednesday and on Friday, his condition became serious. He was attended by his son, Dr. John W. Jackson, and Dr. M. M. Slocum, a heart specialist, both of Utica, and Dr. C. E. Congdon of Fort Plain.

Hundreds of friends and patients of Doctor Jackson thronged his late home yesterday for a last look at their former physician and friend. A great number of very handsome floral tributes were also received at the home.

Dr. J. C. Jackson was a man of unusual attainments. He was a skilled physician and surgeon, while his easy mastery of languages was little short of remarkable. In his schooldays, he learned Latin and German and, in the latter language, he was most proficient. Later on he learned French, Spanish and Italian so that he could converse with ease in five modern languages. He was a lover of the finer things of life and his interest in boys and their education was very strong. When Clinton Liberal Institute [a Universalist academy] was located here, Dr. Jackson was the school physician. In addition to his medical duties there, he frequently helped the boys with their lessons, particularly with their Latin.

The doctor was fond of poetry and his capacity for quickly committing it to memory was remarkable. "The Country Doctor," a poem by Will Carleton, was a favorite with him and a brief half hour before his death he recited these simple, touching lines entire in the presence of his son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Harvey H. Jackson, who were with him at the time. Carleton's "Country Doctor" applies so sympathetically to Dr. Jackson's work and illness that we reprint these brave verses as emblematic of his career and death.¹

Dr. Jackson recited the poem after his son Harvey had told him of the death of his brother-in-law, Dr. C. P. Wagner at St. Johnsville on Sunday.

The deepest sympathy is generally expressed in this section for Mrs. Jackson, who has lost her husband and brother within one week.

¹ This poem is not included here.

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Dr. Jackson was unstinting of his time and strength in serving his patients and he ministered equally to all alike, whether rich or poor, and often without any hope of remuneration.

John Charles Jackson was born in Marcellus Dec. 17, 1865, the son of Amos Jackson and Julia Holcomb. After his studies in public school, he entered Williston academy, Northampton, Mass. Following his graduation from that institution, he entered the New York Homeopathic Medical college, from which he was graduated. He later took a course in the Post Graduate hospital, New York city.

Following his graduation Dr. Jackson practised for a short time in Passaic, N. J., and Syracuse.

Dr. Jackson came to Fort Plain about 1889 and opened an office for the practice of medicine. In 1893, he was married to Ida May Wagner, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Wagner. In 1894, he moved into the house on the corner of Centre and Division streets, which had since been his residence and office.

Dr. Jackson soon built up a large practice in Fort Plain and its surrounding territory and he was widely known up and down the valley. He specialized in diseases of the eye, ear, nose and throat.

Dr. Jackson is mainly responsible for Fort Plain's present theatre. The Fitcher opera house burned on May 4, 1911, which event left Fort Plain without a theatre. The Brunswick hotel, opposite the Jackson home, was burned about 1910. Dr. Jackson's keen mind at once sensed the availability of the site of the hotel as a location for a theatre. He interested a number of business men and a stock company was formed, and the construction of the present theatre was started in the fall of 1911. Dr. Jackson subsequently bought a controlling interest in the company and made his son, Harvey H. Jackson, the manager of the theatre. Later managers were Gros & Zielley, Saxton & Lombard, Saxton & Rickard and V. F. Saxton. The theatre was sold to W. C. Smalley in 1921. Dr. Jackson always maintained a great interest in the theatre. Dr. and Mrs. Jackson nursed the beautiful Boston ivy, which overspreads the northern wall and which is the finest example of this handsome vine in this section.

Dr. Jackson was an enthusiastic automobilist, from the earliest days of the motor car. He was the pioneer motorist of the middle section of the Mohawk valley. His first car was a Locomobile, which he bought in 1901. He was fond of travel and had made several trips abroad and had covered most of America by train or automobile.

Dr. Jackson was a pioneer in advocating (paving?) improvements. He was also instrumental in forming the Fort Plain Motor Co. in 1910, which was one of the first local garages. He sold his interests in 1912.

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Dr. Jackson was a member of the local Masonic lodge and the Knights of Pythias. He had served as health officer of the town of Minden and as coroner of Montgomery county for several terms. He was a member of the Montgomery County Medical society, Fort Plain club, the New York State Medical association, the American Medical association. In politics he was a Democrat of independent inclinations.

Dr. Jackson is survived by his wife, two sons, Dr. John W. Jackson of Utica and Harvey Jackson of St. Johnsville, and two grandchildren, Robert Harvey Jackson and Anne Marie Jackson, both children of Dr. and Mrs. John W. Jackson. At the parents' request, a short time before his death, Dr. Jackson named the latest arrival Anne Marie. She was born on New Year's Day.

Dr. Jackson is also survived by two brothers, Dr. E. H. Jackson and Dr. Harry Jackson of Schenectady.

The funeral services were held this afternoon at the home, Rev. H. [Henry] B. Taylor, D.D., pastor of the Universalist church, officiating, and Rev. C. L. Schaertel, pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran church, assisting. Interment will be made in the spring in the Fort Plain cemetery.

Fort Plain Standard, Fort Plain NY, Thu. 18 Jan 1927

Transcribed on 21 Aug 2018 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY