

[Jones, Benjamin Eugene]

B.E. Jones, Former Postmaster Here, Claimed by Death; Funeral Thursday

Benjamin E. Jones, son of the late Frank Jones and Cora Eugenia Sharp Jones, born Nov. 5, 1875, in the farmhouse now owned by Walter Thompson in the town of Portage, died at Warsaw hospital Monday, Nov. 27, 1950, after a long illness. Mr. Jones was named Benjamin after Benjamin Hoagland, an old friend of his father, and Eugene after his mother's middle name, his mother passing on three years after his birth.

From Mr. Jones' birth until he was eight years of age, the family lived at the River Road Forks in a house on the opposite side of the road from the old cheese factory on the Barnard Willey farm land. When Mr. Jones was eight years of age, his father married Mary M. Sharp of Bay City, Mich., and the family moved to Nunda to the house at the foot of East street now owned by Cecil Hotchkiss.

Mr. Jones attended Nunda Union school until 1889, when he left school to learn the printing trade in the office of the Nunda Times, a weekly newspaper published by the late E.E. LaMonte. In 1891 he began work as assistant postmaster under the late Homer Elwood, serving in that capacity under Mr. Elwood and the late Charles J. Swain until 1899, with the exception of about a year, when he served as a substitute in the railway mail service, resigning to accept appointment by President William McKinley as postmaster in Nunda. His second appointment as postmaster was made by President Theodore Roosevelt and his third by President William Howard Taft. He served as postmaster for about 14 years and as assistant for eight years.

On Aug. 15, 1913, Mr. Jones became assistant cashier in the Nunda Bank, and in 1933 he went with the Peter DePuy Banking House as assistant cashier, later serving as vice president of that institution when it became a state bank. He resigned from that position Jan. 1, 1948.

On July 19, 1898, Mr. Jones married Minnie Crotser of Scottsburg, who died Nov. 5, 1942, and on April 19, 1947, he married Gretchen Moses of Dalton, at which time he sold his residence in State street to Dr. John Weaver and moved to Dalton.

An active member of Keshequa Masonic lodge, Mr. Jones had served as its treasurer for 35 years. He was for many years an active member and official of the Nunda Universalist church, a trustee and former president of Bell Memorial library association, a trustee and former president of Oakwood Cemetery association, and a member of Nunda Chapter R.A.M., retaining his membership in that organization when it was merged with the Mt. Morris chapter.

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Surviving, besides his widow, are three sisters, Mrs. W.H. Chanel, Mrs. A.F. Huebner and Mrs. R.J. Heglund, all of Bay City, Mich.; one brother, Walter M. Jones of Essexville, Mich.; and several nieces and nephews. Another brother, Edwin T. Jones, preceded him in death.

The funeral will be held at Duryea's Funeral Home this Thursday at 2:30 p.m., Rev. Warren Brigham of Perry officiating, assisted by Rev. Howard Pasel of Dalton. Burial will be made in Oakwood cemetery.

Members of Keshequa lodge conducted the Masonic memorial service at the residence in Dalton Wednesday evening.

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