

[Malterner, Silas Nott]

Silas N. Malterner Long Ill Passes NATIVE OF CANTON, SPENT MANY YEARS IN FAR WEST

Silas Nott Malterner, a native of Canton and for forty-five years a resident of Court street, this village, passed away at his home after a long period of declining health, Saturday evening at about 6:30. For several days preceding his death family and friends had given up hope for his recovery.

Funeral services were conducted yesterday at the home, 56 Court street, the Rev. Hugh Tigner, minister of the First Universalist Church officiating. Burial was made at Old Jerusalem Corner (Eddy) Cemetery, where members of the family are buried, including his brother, Perley C. Malterner, and his father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. John Malterner.

Mr. Malterner was born on what was long known as the Malterner farm, located on the Old De Kalb road, at the point where the Cook Brook runs down from the pastures in the vicinity of Eddy and passes under the highway toward Indian Creek country. He was born April 8, 1853, son of John and Mariette Comins Malterner.

The Malterners were of the early settlers of Herkimer County. Albert Malterner, father of John Malterner, father of Silas N. Malterner, removed his family from Herkimer County to St. Lawrence County, where they settled in Somerville in the town of Rossie, not then a town, of course. Here the son John was born and grew to young manhood, removing with his family to the farm on the old De Kalb Road in 1852, about a year before Silas was born.

Silas and two brothers, Perley C. and Albert, grew up on the farm, and Silas and Albert, when young men, went into the west where Albert passed away several years ago. He attended the local schools and Clinton Liberal Institute, where he learned surveying. Silas N. was engaged in railroading and operated the first locomotive into the new Pacific coast town of Spokane. He spent some time in the Hudson Bay country and hunted up the Mackenzie River. On his trips east from time to time he told stories of this remarkably interesting country and the hunting and fishing he enjoyed up beyond the Arctic Circle.

Mr. Malterner was a very interesting story teller of experiences and adventure. He wrote many interesting stories which appeared in the local press and some of it in the out-of-town press. If Sile Malterner sat down and began to "yarn it" he had an audience who sat long into the night at the Club or in the corner store.

He sometimes told of his early boyhood and his youth. He recalled playing the piano as a boy of thirteen for the first graduating exercises of St. Lawrence University. He recalled the building of the old Forest House on the Canton-De Kalb road, and attending with his brother, Albert, the big opening

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ball. They were only boys. A fight arose during the ball and two huge lamps that hung from the ceiling were knocked down and the building was saved only by young men carrying the blazing beacons outside and casting them into the snow.

It was in the middle nineties that he returned to Canton and determined to settle down. His brother, Perley C. Malterner, who had remained at home on the farm, died in 1892. On Oct. 24, 1896, at Syracuse, he married the widow of his brother, Mrs. Anna Farmer Malterner, who was a member of the numerous Farmer families that had settled in Canton now eighty to ninety years ago. They took up their residence in the home in Court street, where all their married life has been spent. It is interesting that the day before his death was their wedding date, the forty-fifth anniversary of the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Malterner.

Mr. Malterner was a skilled mechanic. He built one of the first motor cars ever operated in this village in the workshop back of the Court street home. This was burned a short time after it was successfully operated in a fire that swept the Malterner place.

He was interested in airplanes and had patents on a plane which was of the autogiro type, and that was before the autogiro was thought of. He took an interest in village affairs, and was one of the advocates, advisers and a member of the water board when the spring water plan was introduced and successfully adopted by the village. He was a member of the Village Board for several years and acting mayor in the absence of the mayor.

He was a Mason and was one of the charter members of the Spokane, Wash., Consistory, and was one of the last of those charter members surviving.

There remain the widow, Mrs. Anna Farmer Malterner, and one son, Lochlan Malterner; there are two nephews, stepsons, sons of his brother, Perley C. Malterner, Officer Pierre Malterner of this village, and John Malterner of Spokane, Wash.

Commercial Advertiser, Canton NY, Tue. 28 Oct 1941

Transcribed on 5 Sep 2013 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY