

[Maybe, John H.]

DEATH TAKES JOHN H. MAYBEE

Successful Lumberman of Another Day;
Resident of Canton and Identified With
Its Business Interests for Over Thirty Years

They are passing away, one by one, those rugged, sturdy old-time lumbermen of the North Country. Their ever-thinning ranks were further depleted last week by the death in this village of John H. Maybee, who was so typical of that legion of industrialists once to be found in this section. Mr. Maybee passes at the age of 82 years, a man who in many ways contributed to this community.

He was native to Hermon, born there on Sept. 30, 1859, son of Nelson and Eliza Poole Maybee. But he spent comparatively few years of his life there. It was up in the Edwards-Fine section where he lived and where for many years he conducted his lumbering operations. It was at Edwards in July, 1885, that he married Miss Clara Wood, daughter of Silas and Laura Austin Wood, and last year he and she observed their 56th wedding anniversary.

John Maybee lived in the day when men with foresight and with a knowledge of timber lands made the best of what the foothills of the Adirondacks offered. He...took advantage of the lumber harvest which culled the forests of these western slopes.

A quiet man, a man who knew the inside of a lumber camp, and who could judge the stumpage value of an acre of woodland once had had laid eyes on it, and who knew how to get that timber cut and to the market. As a result he profited handsomely by the opportunities which nature placed at his door.

Then over thirty years ago he brought his family to Canton, settled down here, and turned his attention to such matters as attracted his interest. One of his first ventures locally was to enter the hotel business by purchasing what was then the Hodskin House and all of the property up to the corner of Miner street. This included the old Remington or Moody place, later known as Miner Inn. He sold the Hodskin House to Thomas Burks. In the meantime, in 1912, he startled a good many conservative Canton business men by constructing the Hodskin Garage, now Dawley's. There were a good many people who thought John Maybee would "lose his shirt" by that undertaking. Automobiles were decidedly in the luxury class those days. A garage looked like an extravagant piece of pioneering, but John Maybee had the same foresight then that he had enjoyed when he went about buying up timber lands.

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He never actively appeared in many of his business enterprises. That was true of his rather brief hotel experience, or in building the garage. These were largely real estate dealings so far as he was concerned. In 1927, after the death of Wilfred Woodhead, he purchased the coal and lumber business of Robinson & Woodhead and put his son Nelson, who is a St. Lawrence graduate, in charge to operate it. The business has continued successfully under the name of J. H. Maybee & Son.

He had dealt in local real estate of a residential nature at times, but all of his transactions were done quietly and in such a manner that he rarely appeared in person. To the contrary he was more apt to be found playing a game of cards with some of his friends at the Masonic Club. For years he was an interested member of St. Lawrence Lodge, No. 111, F. & A.M.

Mr. Maybee is survived by his widow; three daughters, Mrs. John (Laura) Gilmore of DeKalb Junction, Mrs. Ralph (Beatrice) Gardner of Alexander, and Mrs. Mildred McKenney, Canton; a son, Nelson A. Maybee of Canton; two brothers, Burton and Webster Maybee, of Russell; a sister, Mrs. Charles Harris of Oswegatchie; 14 grandchildren, four great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held from the home at 45 Gouverneur street Saturday afternoon with Rev. Hugh S. Tigner, pastor of the Canton Universalist church, officiating. Burial was in Evergreen cemetery.

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