

[McAdam, Quentin]

QUENTIN M'ADAM DIED LAST NIGHT

Was One of the Most Prominent Knit Goods Manufacturers in the World
BORN AT DEANSBORO SIXTY-SEVEN YEARS AGO

Quentin McAdam, one of the largest producers of knit goods in the world, died after a short illness at his home, 23 South street, about 7 o'clock last night. He was 67 years of age. Mr. McAdam complained of a cold on his return from Washington two weeks ago yesterday and a physician was summoned. He had been confined to his home since that day and his illness grew steadily worse.

The death of Quentin McAdam removes one of the city's foremost citizens and one of the greatest manufacturing heads of the country. He was interested in a number of knitting mills and was the head of the Utica Knitting Company, which has seven mills of its own. This concern he organized and placed upon its feet second to none in the country. He had been identified with the knit goods industry for a great many years and was one of the most prominent members of the trade in the country for a number of years.

Since the war started Mr. McAdam has had to visit Washington frequently in connection with the vast amount of work his companies were doing for the Government.

Quentin McAdam was born in the village of Deansboro on October 28, 1851. He was of Scotch parentage on his father's side and of Revolutionary stock on his mother's side. His mother was left a widow with five children when Quentin, the fourth child, was three years of age. The family came into no inheritance from the father and the widow had to struggle along with her little flock as best she could. The struggle was not without its severe hardships and as soon as the boy Quentin was old enough to do anything he put his small shoulder to the wheel to help the mother support the family. His first employment, as might be expected in the community in which he was born, was on a farm. He was hired by the month and the wages were next to nothing. He was 12 years of age when he had his first employment, attending school in the winter months. He had a rugged constitution and the early farm work made him strong physically, self-reliant and unafraid. It developed in him a character of courage that remained with him throughout a long, very busy and very useful life.

At the age of 15 Quentin went to work in a village store as a clerk. His employment carried with it an average of 16 hours a day and the munificent salary of \$100 a year and board. When at the close of the first year of this employment and he had decided to change his employment, he went to his employer for \$25 he expected he had coming to him, only to be informed that their accounts just balanced.

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Young McAdam then entered the employment of Buckingham & Mitchell of this city, D. P. Buckingham being his uncle. He began his employment in a humble capacity as packer in the basement of the wholesale establishment and two years later was promoted to stockkeeper and salesman. At the age of 19 he was a commercial traveler for the concern covering the territory of northern New York to the St. Lawrence River. He continued on the road for nine years, worked hard and saved some money, while all the time lending aid to his mother.

In the meantime he had seen the advantages of an education and determined upon an education of some kind for himself. He began to read; the nature of his business and the observation that had come to him dealing chiefly with business, he studied the careers of the great men of business. He constantly added to his store of knowledge wherever he could pick it up and kept in mind always that independence was to be gained only through frugality and honesty. In the course of 10 years, in days when salaries were comparatively small and the saving of large sums was uncommon, he managed to save very close to \$3,000.

And then came an important turning point in his career. His employer had failed and Mr. McAdam bought the business from the assignee. That was in the year 1879, 39 years ago. He was able to put the deal through without much trouble, having money of his own and an excellent character. He was now a partner in the business, but continued to make his northern trips for the house just as before. He continued traveling three years after becoming a partner in the concern, when at the age of 28 he took over the reins of management of the business and became the beau of the dry goods jobbing house of Quentin McAdam & Co., a concern that gained a widely known and enviable name in the trade and retained it for many years.

Mr. McAdam touched his first manufacturing enterprise in the year 1889 when he established the Riverside Manufacturing Company, organized for the manufacture of workmen's clothing. When he retired from the dry goods jobbing business he disposed of this business to his partners. He disposed of his dry goods jobbing business and the other interest on January 1, 1899, the new concern becoming Rathbun & Co., which has continued as one of the largest and most successful houses of its kind.

Mr. McAdam's entry into the knit goods business was in the organization of the Clinton Knitting Company. His partners in this enterprise were John W. Allis and John McGuire. The plant was destroyed by fire only a few months after it had been established. The concern moved to the old factory which had been occupied by the old Livery pistol works at Franklin and Fulton streets. Again they were burned out and again they moved into the building formerly occupied by the Norfolk hat factory on the Highlands. A short time later Mr. McAdam formed the Utica Knitting Company, its Number

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One mill being located on Erie street. George E. Farrell of Oswego, for a number of years a well known knit goods manufacturer, became associated with the concern in 1892. Among the other mills which the company later organized and conducted were Mill No. 2, Schuyler street; Mill No. 3, Oriskany Falls; Mill No 4. Erie street; Mill No. 5.; Sherburne yarn mill; Mill No. 6, at Capron and Mill No. 7 at Richfield Springs. Besides this he was general manager and treasurer of the Clayville Knitting Company at Clayville.

Mr. McAdam had recently instituted community welfare work in connection with the plant there. He had caused the basement of the village theater to be made over into a suite of club rooms and properly fitted. Mr. McAdam's energies and interest had not been confined to the knit goods business. He was a director of the First National Bank of this city. In addition he was president of the Utica Duxbak Corporation, which manufactures sportmen's [sic] clothing. He was also president of the United States Condensed Milk Company of Deansboro. Mr. McAdam was also the owner of some valuable cattle. He was the owner of the Brothertown Stock Farms, and had been a most successful breeder, and had owned several record breakers. Among these was Sadie Vale Concordia.

He was also the treasurer and general manager of the Mutual Box Board Corporation and a director of the Utica Mutual Compensation Insurance Corporation. Mr. McAdam was one of the organizers of the Commercial Traveltesters' Accident Association, and his ticket number was 68. Mr. McAdam was a member of the Church of the Reconciliation [Universalist] and the Fort Schuyler Club.

The third Liberty Loan campaign saw great activity on the part of Mr. McAdam. He was chairman of Division A, that division which conducted the canvass among the corporations and individuals able to subscribe liberally. This division won the contest in that campaign by securing the greatest total subscription.

Mr. McAdam had been president of the Knit Goods Manufacturers' Association of New York State. At his death he was the treasurer of the National Knit Goods Association. [On] February 19, 1879 he was united in marriage to Clara M. Jones of this city. Besides his wife, he leaves a sister, Mrs. Joseph H. Gridley, a nephew, Oscar W. Gridley of this city and a niece, Mrs. John A. Losee of Richfield Springs.

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