

[Newby, John Thomas]

DEATH OF FINE CANTON CITIZEN FUNERAL SERVICES HELD FOR LATE JOHN T. NEWBY Former Village Trustee Was Native of Lisbon, Long Resident of Dakota

In the early hours of Wednesday morning Canton has lost one of its most valued and esteemed citizens, a staunch and stalwart man, a man of high principle and firm conviction, and one who was highly respected in his business, community and family life. For four years he had been in poor health brought about by heart trouble. With unflinching courage, and undaunted faith in his philosophy of life he faced the illness which came upon him with that same determination that had marked his entire life.

Death came shortly before three Wednesday morning. He met it as he had met life, fearlessly. With the same meticulous care with which he attended to all of his personal affairs he had expressed his wishes as to all funeral arrangements and they were followed out in every respect by his wife who had so devotedly administered to him during his illness.

The funeral services were held from his fine State street home at two Thursday afternoon, beautiful floral tributes from friends, associates and organizations banking his casket; the home being filled to overflowing with those paying their last respects. Dr. Richard Eddy Sykes [Universalist], a life-long friend of Mr. Newby and his family, officiated with Rev. H. [Herbert] P. Morrell, offering prayer. Burial was made in the family lot at Fairview. The pall bearers, by his direction, were: his two sons, John, of Lisle, N. Y. and Fred, of Hermon; his nephew, George Newby, of Madrid; his grandsons John and Harland Newby, of Lisle; a cousin, Dr. Fred Swann, of Potsdam; and his son-in-law, Stanley Law, of Canton. Following his wishes the honorary bearers were: O. William Lewis, John A. Finnigan, Ralph H. Michaels, Clarence S. Cook, John H. Wade and Willar Liscum.

John Newby came of fine old English and Scottish stock. His father, John Newby, was a native of Yorkshire, England, and his mother, Margaret Rule Newby, a native of Edinburgh, Scotland. Both the Newby and Rule families have long been prominent in Lisbon and it was there on the old home farm that John Thomas was born on September 15, 1854. In March, 1882, he married a Lisbon girl, Sarah Jackson, and very soon afterward the young couple journeyed westward and threw in their lot with the homesteaders of South Dakota in Duel county. It was in the day when the broad Dakota prairies were being first turned into the production of wheat and the raising of cattle and horses. The days of Indian warfare were still fresh memories, and it was truly a pioneering experience.

From his ranch doorstep John could look out across 816 acres he came to own. From the east he had brought eastern methods and ideas, and put them in practice. His farm became well known. That great spread of country was just being opened up. The great transcontinental railways were bringing people to till the soil. James Hill was conducting his great battle to run the Great Northern across the country.

John Newby came into a position of prominence in the state. On his ranch he bred Hereford cattle and built fine buildings. His neighbors elected him to serve for nine years on their county board and sent him for four years to the state senate.

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For twenty years he served on the school board and was its treasurer. He knew men, cattle and horses, as well as politics, and among his neighbors were many who had come from Northern New York. It was an active, busy, arduous life on the ranch. To the family came five fine children. Then in 1911, after these many years of interesting life, Mr. and Mrs. Newby returned from the west, first to reside on their farm for four years and then to move to this village.

Always a splendid judge of horses, he became a large dealer in them. He had purchased the Jackson place on State street and made it one of the finest homes in Canton. The barns he made over into fine stables and several times a year he would return to the Dakotas to purchase and ship horses east where he always found a ready market for them. He delighted in this business, and the farmers of this section always found John Newby a man of his word.

His interests naturally drew his attention and interest to the St. Lawrence County Agricultural Society of which he became a director, a position he held for over twenty years. He was a past master of Morley Grange and then transferred his membership to Silas Wright Grange. The people of Canton twice elected him to serve on the village board of trustees and were always sure that he would represent their interests as he would his own. He was a man of civic interest, and never hesitated to express his opinions and his judgment was sound.

But a few months after they had celebrated their fortieth wedding anniversary Mrs. Newby died on Sept. 22, 1922. Two years later, on Dec. 9, 1924, Mr. Newby married as his second wife Mrs. Stella E. Mull Small, formerly of Cheyenne, Wyo., but who had resided in Canton since 1912. Dr. James M. Payson performed the ceremony. This union was a most happy one, as had been the first. For many years Mr. Newby had been a member of the parish of the First Universalist church and among its loyal supporters.

Surviving besides his widow are two sons, John Newby of Lisle, and his family; and Fed C. Newby of Hermon, and family; a daughter, Mrs. Lillian Penisten of Columbia, Mo.; a step daughter, Mrs. Ruth Law of Canton. Mr. Newby took great delight in his children, and in his ten grandchildren. He was a great home lover, a most loyal friend, and valued citizen.

For the present Mrs. Newby will make her home with her daughter, Mrs. Law, Gouverneur street.

St. Lawrence Plaindealer, Canton NY, Tue. 3 Sep 1935

Transcribed on 30 Nov 2023 by Karen E. Dau of East Rochester, NY