

[Nott, James Wallace]

J. WALLACE NOTT, LONG ILL, DIES
ONE OF OLDEST BUSINESS MEN IN CITY
WAS A DRUGGIST SINCE 1870

Conducted a Drug Store on the Corner of Mill Street and Public Square.
—Attended Republic Convention in 1860

J. Wallace Nott, one of the oldest business men in the city, passed away at his home, 531 State street, early Sat. morning, after an illness of several weeks. Heart trouble was the cause of his death. For nearly half a century Mr. Nott had conducted a drug store at the corner of Mill street and Public Square, and he was well known in the city.

Mr. Nott was born at Somerville, St. Lawrence county, August 10, 1839, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Reuben Nott. When he was 12 years old Mr. Nott went to Canton to attend school. He took care of the horse and cow of former County Clerk Merton Thatcher, for his board. Mr. Thatcher at that time conducted an ashery in Canton.

Reuben Nott was elected sheriff of St. Lawrence county shortly after his son went to Canton and he moved to the county seat to take up his residence. At this time the late L. E. B. Winslow conducted a drug store in Canton on the site of the W. E. Dunn grocery store, and at the age of 14 years, Mr. Nott entered his employ as an apprentice. Here he learned the drug trade.

In 1859 he went to Chicago to become clerk in a drug store and he was in Chicago during the summer and fall of 1860, when Abraham Lincoln was nominated for presidency. The convention at which Lincoln was nominated was held in the famous old "Wig-wam," and Mr. Nott attended several of the sessions as a spectator.

Mr. Nott returned east in 1861. His father in the meantime had purchased the old American hotel in this city, and conducted it. Mr. Nott remained with his father for a time and in 1870 he purchased the business which he conducted until the time of his death. The store was a leather store conducted by Sylvanus Pool. Mr. Nott made many repairs to the store, including the laying of new floors and the installation of show cases. He put in some plate glass windows, the second windows of this kind that were installed in Watertown.

Since 1870 Mr. Nott had conducted the business and although his store was out of the beaten track of trade, he enjoyed a good patronage. He was known among his friends as "Doctor" Nott. When residents of that section of the city had an ache or a pain they frequently went to him instead of consulting a doctor, and he would prescribe for them. He was always highly pleased with the cures he effected, and the title of "doctor" pleased him greatly.

Mr. Nott was a familiar figure at the City Opera House for many years, sitting down toward the front in the right hand side of the center section. He

[Nott, James Wallace]

had an advertising bill board on his store and he held a pass to the City Opera House which he used for many years. There is hardly an actor or actress of any prominence who has visited this city in the last dozen years who was not seen by Mr. Nott.

Mr. Nott was first taken ill about two years ago and his family endeavored to have him give up his business, but he said that he could not relinquish his activities, and as soon as he was able he was back behind the prescriptions case. His last illness dates back several weeks, and he had gradually been failing in health.

Mr. Nott was twice married. His first wife was Miss Georgia Benjamin, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Sylvester Benjamin of Hounsfield. They were married in 1867 and she died four years later. Two children were born to this union: Miss Grace B. Nott, who resides at 561 State street, and Mrs. Owen R. Owens of this city. In 1883 Mr. Nott was married to Miss Allie Ward of Niles, Mich. She died in 1892. One child was born to this union, Miss May E. Nott of Brooklyn.

Mr. Nott was the next to the youngest of eleven children. Besides his daughters, he is also survived by two brothers, Copley A. Nott of New York city and Theodore Nott of Denver, Colo.

The funeral will be held from his late home Monday at 2 p.m. Rev. Harry Westbrook Reed, pastor of All Souls Universalist church, will officiate, and interment will be made in Brookside cemetery. The bearers will be four clerks and former clerks in the Nott store, A. T. Mathews, Elmer E. Worthen, Clinton Livingstone and Harry Curtis.

Daily Times, Watertown NY, Sat. 3 Jun 1916

Transcribed on 23 Dec 2023 by Karen E. Dau of East Rochester, NY