

[O'Connor, George H.]

EDITOR GEORGE O'CONNOR SUCCUMBS TO PNEUMONIA

Fort Plain Newspaperman, Ill Only Week, Dies at Home in That Village—
Published Standard for Many Years and Was Active in Affairs of Mohawk Valley

George O'Connor, editor and publisher of the Fort Plain Standard, died at his home, 8 Home street, in the village of Fort Plain, last night at 11:15 o'clock, of pneumonia, after an illness of a week. Stricken last Tuesday, his condition was serious from the first and despite the constant attendance of two trained nurses, as well as able medical attention, the critical stage developed which the weakened system was unable to withstand.

Sketch of Life

George O'Connor was born at Fort Plain December 5, 1866, a son of George and Mary (Sponable) O'Connor, the former a native of Ireland and the latter of Fulton county. His father emigrated to the new world in boyhood and took up his abode in Fort Plain because of the fact he had relatives in that village. For many years he was successfully engaged in business there as a shoe merchant. He died in 1905.

Educated in the schools of Fort Plain, George O'Connor, the son, showed a desire, when quite young, to learn the printer's trade, at which he worked in the employ of others until 1892. In that year he purchased the Fort Plain Standard and two decades later erected the present modern building which houses the newspaper plant.

At the time he acquired the Standard his brother, Walter W., more familiarly known as "Pete," became associated with him in newspaper work and remained active in its management until his death May 24, 1922. His "Sifter" column in the weekly issue of the Standard was one of the brightest of any publication in these parts. In fact "Pete" O'Connor as a columnist was far ahead of his day. His keen wit and ability to put matter into attractive printed form made him an outstanding figure in valley newspaper circles.

It was little wonder therefore that under the capable direction of such an energetic firm as O'Connor Bros., the Fort Plain Standard took a foremost place among the weekly newspapers in the central and eastern sections of New York state, with the largest circulation of any publication of its type. In addition, they operated a finely equipped job plant.

After the death of his brother, George O'Connor continued the operation of the Standard office alone. He was active in its management and daily routine and, like his brother, Walter W., had a keen sense of making news items more appealing than ordinary.

[On] February 4, 1884, he was married to Miss Catherine Clyde of Cherry Valley, Otsego county, who survives him together with one daughter, Dorothy Clyde, wife of Carl Lindemann, Jr., of Hackensack, N.J., who was

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with her father at the end; one brother, Frank, Louisville, Ky.; three grandchildren, Carl, Katherine and Dolly Ann Lindemann, Hackensack, N.J., and a cousin, Surrogate Fox Sponable, Fort Plain.

Active as Democrat

George O'Connor was one of the most ardent champions of the Democratic party in this section. He supported its candidates for office in a manner that left no doubt as to his sincerity, but he never permitted his political faith to engender bad feeling among those of opposite belief whom he numbered among his friends. In fact Editor O'Connor called practically every resident in the west end of the county his friend and he had many warm acquaintances in Amsterdam.

He was one of the charter members of the famous Haymarket club of Fort Plain, which was one of Fort Plain's select stag organizations of a few years ago. He was also a member of the Fort Plain Exchange club, Fort Plain Lodge No. 433, F.& A.M., Fort Plain director of the Mohawk Valley Towns Association, in which he was deeply interested, and a member of the Universalist church.

The funeral will be held at the home in Fort Plain, Thursday afternoon, at 3 o'clock, the Rev. Rufus H. Dix, pastor of the Universalist church officiating. Burial will be in the Fort Plain cemetery.

Evening Recorder, Amsterdam NY, Tue. 16 Feb 1932

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[O'Connor, George H.]

GEORGE H. O'CONNOR, 67, PUBLISHER OF FORT PLAIN
STANDARD NEWSPAPER, DIES

Pneumonia Claims Prominent Weekly Newspaper Owner After Ten Days' Illness;
Was Member of Universalist Church, Exchange Club and Fort Plain
F. & A.M. Lodge and a Democrat in Politics

FORT PLAIN—George H. O'Connor, 67, owner and publisher of the Fort Plain Standard, a weekly newspaper, died Monday night at 11:45 at his home here, following a ten day's illness with pneumonia.

Mr. O'Connor was born in Fort Plain, December 5, 1865 and always resided there. He was a Democrat but never held a public office, devoting his time to the newspaper field.

He and his brother, W. W. O'Connor, who passed away in 1922, took over the business forty years ago.

Mr. O'Connor was a member of the Universalist church, Fort Rensselaer club of Canajoharie, Fort Plain Exchange and Fort Plain Lodge, 433, F. & A.M.

The survivors are his wife, Catherine Clyde of Cherry Valley, to whom he was united in marriage on February 4, 1884; one daughter, Mrs. Carl Lindman, Jr., of Hackensack, N.J., and a brother, Frank O'Connor of Louisville, Kentucky.

Mr. O'Connor for many years had been a leader in thought in Fort Plain and the entire Mohawk Valley, principally through his newspaper. The two O'Connor brothers built up the newspaper until it became a family journal of real import and one which holds a high place in newspaperdom. He had a wide circle of friends throughout the Valley who will regret his passing.

Details of the funeral will be announced later.

Morning Herald, Gloversville NY, Wed. 17 Feb 1932

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