

[Pattridge, Caroline M.]

BIG SUMS OF MONEY LEFT ABOUT HOUSE

Mrs. G. B. VanDoren Seals it in Packages, Placing it in Bank

SEVERAL THOUSANDS FOUND AT MISS PATTRIDGE'S HOME

Will Bequeathing \$10,000 Each to Mrs. VanDoren, John Gilligan, G. R. VanNamee

MADE WILL MAY 10, DIED 13TH

Money Was Made in the Woolen Business—

Most of the Estate is in Government Bonds

Thousands of dollars in currency were found in the home of the late Miss Caroline M. Pattridge, of 190 Stone street, who died at the Ruddy Sanitorium Saturday, following a fall, which she received two weeks ago, it became known today. Miss Pattridge left an estate of about \$60,000. Of this amount \$10,000 each was left to Police Lieutenant John Gilligan and Mrs. George B. Van Doren¹, neighbors of Miss Pattridge, who assisted her when she was injured by a fall. A like sum is given to Attorney George R. Van Names, who looked after her affairs. Several minor bequests are made and the residue of the estate goes to All Souls Universalist church.

After she was injured Miss Pattridge told Mrs. Van Doren that much of her money was in the house, and that she wanted her to take charge of it. Mrs. Van Doren found thousands of dollars in bills, tied up in packages. About \$200 in currency was found in the sideboard. Mrs. Van Doren put the money in packages, sealed them and placed them in a safe deposit vault in one of the city's banks, where they now are.

Miss Pattridge's will was made but three days before her death. The will was executed May 10, and was filed for probate with Surrogate Joseph Atwell late Monday afternoon. Frank P. McCaffery, Elizabeth Fober and Roderick Oliver, all of this city, benefit to a smaller extent, and the First Universalist church (All Souls) gets the balance of the estate, said to total upwards of \$60,000 in value. All colonial furniture and china in the home, 190 Stone street, is left in trust to Hattie E. Fairbanks, to be by her transferred to Leray De Chaumont Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution.

Miss Pattridge died at Ruddy's sanitorium Saturday morning, following injuries sustained two weeks previously in a fall down the cellar stairs at her home. Miss Pattridge lay for several hours at the foot of the stairs, unable to attract help, until Roderick Oliver, who has worked about the home for many years, called in the afternoon. He notified Lieutenant Gilligan and Mrs. Van Doren, and the injured woman was given prompt attention. Mrs. Van Doren, who is a trained nurse, cared for Miss Pattridge until she could be prevailed upon to go to Ruddy's a week later.

¹ This name is variously spelled Van Doren and VanDoren, and I have left them as they are.

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Miss Pattridge left no surviving relatives. A sister [Levina] with whom she lived died a year ago. It is said that there are some distant cousins in the west, but the will states that there are no heirs at law, and the state comptroller is cited in the proceedings.

The will bears the date of May 10 and is witnessed by Attorney Delos M. Congrove, who drew it, and Dr. W. J. Kellow, who attended Miss Pattridge. Mr. VanNamee is named executor. The petition states that the estate exceeds \$10,000 in value.

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While Mr. VanNamee was not related to Miss Pattridge, the two sisters and his grandmother were lifelong friends and Mr. VanNamee had looked after the legal work of the Misses Pattridge and assisted them in their investments since his admission to the bar. Lieut. Gilligan and Mrs. Van Doren were neighbors and both had won the esteem of the aged lady by many kind acts.

Miss Pattridge was a daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Winslow [and Levina Wood] Pattridge, who was a descendant of General Warren of Revolutionary War fame. Her father was born in New Hampshire in 1791, came to Watertown in 1818. He began the business of cloth dressing and wool carding and erected a large factory. The business grew and he accumulated a large fortune, some of which was lost in 1847, when fire destroyed his mill. He died in 1864.

Mr. Pattridge came to Watertown from Otsego county, making the trip in an ox team, and settled in Watertown when it was but a small hamlet. At one time he owned a large farm between Massey and Holcomb streets, owning nearly all the property in the triangle formed by the intersection of those two streets.

Miss Pattridge lived in the large white old-fashioned house next to that owned by Dr. G. B. VanDoren.

Lieutenant Gilligan was much pleased with his good fortune today and received the congratulations of his many friends.

"You can say," he said to a Times reporter, "that Gilligan will be on the police force 365 days in the year and he will be the same Gilligan, always."

He said that he would continue to live in the same house which he had occupied for the last 22 years, as a neighbor to Miss Pattridge. He intimated that most of the \$10,000 was in United States bonds and paper mill securities, and he would leave it untouched.

"I had no idea until a few days ago that I was to receive a cent of Miss Pattridge's money," continued the police officer. "A few days ago, however, I heard hints that Miss Pattridge was not going to forget her friends. I supposed then that I might possibly get a few hundred dollars, but had no idea of receiving such an amount as this.

[Pattridge, Caroline M.]

"I have been a neighbor of Miss Pattridge for the last 22 years. When Mrs. Gilligan was alive she was particularly well acquainted with her and they were very close friends. I always went to her well mornings to get water, and I usually passed the time of day with her. We were always neighborly and often exchanged garden truck during the summer.

"I was always glad to help Miss Pattridge or do any neighborly act, although I had hardly ever been in her house. After she was hurt by a fall, she seemed anxious to have Mrs. Van Doren and myself assist her. At first she did not wish to go to the hospital, but we persuaded her to go. She refused to go in an ambulance, and Mr. Ruddy, myself and two other men carried her on a stretcher. After her arrival at the hospital she asked Mrs. VanDoren and myself to call on her each day and we did so.

"She seemed to be a woman who was firm in her views, and the only advice I ever gave her was about keeping her doors locked. She was quite deaf and I told her it was not safe to leave the doors unlocked. She seemed to treat the matter lightly, however, as if she had nothing in the house worth taking."

"I have been a neighbor of Miss Pattridge for the last ten years," said Mrs. VanDoren, "and was almost a daily caller at her home. I had no idea up until a few days ago that I would receive any of her money. All I ever heard her say was that she wanted her friends to have some keepsakes when she was gone."

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Miss Harriet Fairbanks, regent of the Leray De Chaumont Chapter, D.A.R., said this afternoon she did not know the extent of colonial furniture and china which Miss Pattridge left.

"Miss Pattridge collected many articles of this sort," said Miss Fairbanks, "and some are quite valuable. When the estate is settled up I will take charge of the property left in trust to the chapter. The articles will have to be stored until there is a suitable place to keep them, as there is not room enough in the library."

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Transcribed on 3 Dec 2023 by Karen E. Dau of East Rochester, NY
(slightly abridged)