

[Post, Frank Truman]

FRANK T. POST DIES IN SPOKANE
PROMINENT LAWYER AND INDUSTRIALIST ON COAST
Was a Classmate of Dr. Richard Eddy Sykes at St. Lawrence.

Frank Truman Post, native to the West Potsdam neighborhood, classmate and life-long friend of Dr. R. E. [Richard Eddy] Sykes, and a cousin of Mrs. Annie Post and Mrs. Alice P. Gunnison, died at his home in Spokane, Washington, March 5. Two weeks previously he suffered a stroke, and a second one occurred March 3.

Much of Mr. Post's early life was spent here in Canton, in fact practically all of it. It was here he attended the old Academy, and then the University from which he graduated in 1883 and from which he later received the honor[_?] degree, Doctor of Laws. It was to the Canton law office of Russell, Post & Robinson that he first studied for his life's profession. It was Canton and its people that he always kept in touch with and it was to the University that his benefactions were always most generous. In 1937 he returned to attend the college commencement visit with his old friends and relatives, and attend his last banquet with his college fraternity the Betas.

It was at this time he presented to St. Lawrence University \$2,000 for the establishment of the Frank Truman Post Prize for Proficiency In the Study of Latin. Like many other students of his college days he had formed a great liking for the classics and it was his desire that the student of today be encouraged to also acquire a love for such subjects.

The following, taken from a Spokane newspaper, testifies to the high position he had won in the esteem of those in his own community on the Pacific coast.

"Frank T. Post, 78, one of Spokane's outstanding citizens, crossed the Great Divide early today.

"The pioneer lawyer, civic leader, and industrialist, and former president of the Washington Power Company, died at his home today. At his bedside when death came were his daughter, Mrs. William Donegan of Honolulu; his son, J. Phillips Post, and a niece, Mrs. Harriet Suing of Seattle. Canton people will recall Mrs. Suing as the former Miss Harriet Hilton, daughter of the late Mrs. Hattie P. Hilton.

"Mr. Post was born April 18, 1862 at West Potsdam, St. Lawrence county, New York. He was descended from Stephen Post, who emigrated to Newton (now Cambridge), Mass. from Kent, England, about 1630.

"Stephen Post was one of the founders of Hartford, Conn., in 1634, and his son, Abraham Post, was in command of the fort at Saybrook, Conn., in 1669, and a representative in the colonial legislature in 1685. Frank Post's father, John (Fobes?) Post, was a banker president and one of the charter

[Post, Frank Truman]

stockholders of the First National Bank of Canton, and a lumberman in St. Lawrence county.

Frank Truman Post attended the village school (rural district school) in West Potsdam until his 14th year, then he prepared for college at Canton Union School. He was graduated from St. Lawrence University in 1883.

"In 1924 the University conferred the honorary degree of doctor of laws upon him. (This degree was conferred in absentia as Mr. Post was at the time in England.)

"Immediately upon graduation, he became a student in the law office of Russell, Post & Robinson, at Canton, N.Y., and in September, 1885, was admitted to the New York bar.

"In October, 1885, he entered Harvard as a special student, remaining there one year. Following that he began practice in Lowville, N.Y.

"In March, 1889, he set out by train for Seattle to set up a law office in that city. After two weeks in Seattle, he decided the damp climate would be bad for his health and that the town already had too many lawyers. He returned to Spokane, which has remained his home for 52 years.

"In 1893, he returned to Lowville, N.Y., long enough to marry the daughter of the editor of the newspaper there, Mary C. Phillips. Mrs. Post died here more than 10 years ago.

"Their only children were twins, born April 7, 1897. They are Mrs. William E. Donegan, wife of Major Donegan, now stationed at Honolulu with the army, and John Phillips Post, local attorney and member of the firm of Post, Russell, Davis & Paine, which his father founded. Mrs. Donegan came from Honolulu when her father suffered his first stroke.

"Although a lawyer, Mr. Post was best known as an executive of electric and telephone utilities. He was president and general counsel for the Home Telephone company for many years until that firm was bought out by Pacific Telephone and Telegraph company.

"At one time or another over a span of nearly half a century, Mr. Post served the Washington Water Power company as general counsel vice-president, president and chairman of the board. He retired from the latter position last summer, but maintained an office in the building and took an interest in its affairs until the last.

"Before his association with the Water Power, in the late 1890s he was for a year the corporation counsel of the city of Spokane. He was a past president of both the Spokane County and Washington State Bar Associations.

"He was a staunch Republican and served as delegate at large from this state (Washington) to that party's national convention of 1908. He was affiliated with the Universalist church and was a member of Beta Theta Pi social fraternity and Phi Beta Kappa scholastic honorary. He was also a

[Post, Frank Truman]

member of the Spokane City and University club, the Spokane Country club, Sons of the American Revolution and Society of Colonial Wars.”

The reference to Mr. Post’s interest reminds the Plaindealer editor of his last communication with Mr. Post who had been a life-long reader of this paper and had taken it ever since he first moved west. Last fall during the height of the presidential campaign a long night letter came over the wires from Spokane. Mr. Post desired to know what the political drift was in St. Lawrence County and in Canton, and, in fact, in New York State. It was easy to predict Canton, almost as easy to predict St. Lawrence County, but it was necessary to make frank reservations on the state.

St. Lawrence Plaindealer, Canton NY, Tue. 11 Mar 1941

Transcribed on 26 Dec 2015 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY