

[Remington, William R.]

## William R. Remington

After a protracted sickness, William R. Remington passed away at his home at ten o'clock on Friday evening. Some months ago he showed signs of sickness. An examination by a specialist indicated a serious affection of the heart. One of the most noted specialists in the state was summoned from Syracuse who confirmed the diagnosis and pronounced the disease at such an advanced stage that recovery was impossible. All that medical skill and careful nursing could do was given him, but it was ineffectual and on Friday night he quietly passed out of life. In addition to the burden of his own sickness, Mr. Remington had to bear the anxiety caused by the very serious illness of his son, who was critically ill at a sanitarium in New York. The father's condition was so serious two weeks ago that the son was notified, and against the counsel of his physicians he rose from his bed and came home. His appearance and condition were appalling to his friends and he reached his father's bedside in a state of extreme debility. Remaining a few days, the son's condition became so alarming that he was taken back to New York, where he was put under the best medical skill which the city afforded. At this writing his sickness gives but little hope of recovery. Mrs. Remington, whose health has been poor for some time, finally became overcome by her watching and anxiety and has been for some days in a condition to cause great apprehension. She has withstood the shock of her husband's death with great fortitude and will without doubt soon recover strength. It is seldom that so great a tragedy has come to any of our village homes and a wide-spread sympathy has gone out to the afflicted home.

Few of our citizens held higher place in the esteem of the community than Mr. Remington. Nearly his entire life has been spent in Canton. He was widely known, not only in the locality but throughout the state. Identified with all the interests of the town, he was a citizen of character and ability, a man of marked integrity, standing for everything that makes for the public welfare, kindly in disposition, a good neighbor and a loyal friend.

He had occupied prominent places in public life. For twenty years he was postmaster of the village, conducting his office with great courtesy to the public and marked fidelity to the government.

For many years, few men in the county were more prominent politically. He was influential as a leader in his party and his judgment was highly esteemed, while he was highly respected by those from whom he politically differed.

In 1882 he was elected county clerk, serving for many years with distinction in that capacity. During the occupancy of office many improvements were made in the conduct of affairs, the most notable being

[Remington, William R.]

the re-indexing of the mortgages and deeds. The old cumbersome alphabetical system was superseded by the Lusk system, the best now in use. The work involved great study and labor, Mr. Remington extending it beyond the appropriations made at his own personal expense. The system inaugurated by him has been followed by his successors so that the records of the office are without a superior in the state.

In 1892 he was appointed collector of the port of Ogdensburg, serving as that officer with the same distinction that marked all the offices he had held. He was appointed manager of the State Hospital by Governor Morton in 1895, and served as one of the prison commissioners of the state until the office was merged in a single paid superintendent by Governor Odell. He was appointed by Governor Theodore Roosevelt as the state delegate to the prison association meeting held in St. Louis. He became one of the most highly esteemed and valued members of the commission, which comprised some of the most noted philanthropists in the state.

In 1905 he was appointed by Governor Higgins one of the commissioners of the State Board of Charities, holding that position at the time of his decease. He was a trustee of the Universalist church and a member of the trustees of St. Lawrence University. To every position which he held he brought a conscientious regard for the duties which the place assumed. He was faithful to every duty and made a record of conspicuous fidelity. He was without ambition for place or honors, was modest in demeanor, dignified in deportment, courteous and upright in all his dealings and singularly loyal to his friends. He was always to be counted on the right side of every question of public or private morals, having reverence for the sanctuary and the offices of the church, a wise counselor and a sympathetic friend to those who were in any need. His good deeds were many and they were never ostentatious.

He was born in Hanover, NY, May 25, 1839. He was the son of Rev. Seth W. Remington, a Universalist clergyman, and was the brother of the late S. P. and Lamartine Remington, who were widely and favorably known. His death is a great loss to this community and will be severely felt.

*St. Lawrence Plaindealer*, Canton NY, Tue. 12 Mar 1907

Transcribed on 22 Feb 2008 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY

[Remington, William R.]

Hon. Wm. R. Remington

Canton, March 11.—Hon. William R. Remington, one of the most prominent public men of St. Lawrence county, and for many years an acknowledged leader of the Republican party in this section, died Friday night at his home in Main street, this village, from heart trouble, aged 67 years.

Mr. Remington had been identified with Republican politics in this county since his youth, and has held many offices of trust and honor under that party. For several years he was postmaster of Canton, and for two terms county clerk, and was collector of the port of Ogdensburg, and had been a member of the New York State prison commission. He was a member of the board of trustees of St. Lawrence University, president of the Canton Electric Light & Power Company, a trustee of the First Universalist church of this village, and a member of the State Board of Charities at the time of his death.

He is survived by his widow, one daughter, Mrs. Ella Mills, and one son, George A. Remington, the well known clothing merchant of Watertown, who is at present lying very ill at Dr. Wylie's hospital in New York, suffering from Bright's disease. The deceased was an uncle of Frederick Remington of New Rochelle and New York city, the noted artist of Wild West life and magazine writer.

*Ogdensburg Advance*, Ogdensburg NY, Thu. 14 Mar 1907

Transcribed on 22 May 2009 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY