

[Rich, Charles Willson]

Charles W. Rich Esteemed by All

DEATH OCCURRED SUNDAY AFTER ONLY BRIEF ILLNESS

Mr. Rich Had Formerly Served Canton As Town Collector and In Other Offices

Former village trustee and town collector of taxes Charles W. Rich died at his home on Church street Sunday morning following an illness of two days. His funeral is being held from there this afternoon at 2:30 with Prof. H. Philbrook Morrell officiating, and burial will be in the Brick Chapel cemetery.

Charles Willson Rich, more familiarly known to all as "Charlie" Rich, was a man who had many friends and no enemies, one of those genial, loyal, kindly spoken men whose companionship in his home and by others was eagerly sought. He had been in poor health for many years, but not of such a serious nature as to prevent him from being downtown as recently as Friday, and working about his home. On two occasions he had undergone critical operations for an ulcerous condition of the stomach. For twenty-five years he had never been entirely free from this trouble and Friday he suffered a recurrence which terminated in an internal hemorrhage which proved fatal.

Born at Woodstock, Ill. June 20, 1854 of Albert and Matilda Willson, [unreadable line] Charles Rich had lived to be 81 years of age, though few realized he was as old. His father and mother had gone to Illinois where the father was engaged with two brothers in constructing one of the mid-western railroads, where he was born. From Chicago the father went west and died at Pike's Peak of pneumonia while engaged in gold prospecting.

His widow, with their small son Charles, returned to Canton where she later married one of the Bridge brothers. When Charles was 17 years of age he returned to the west for nine years, joining two step-brothers, sons of his father by an earlier marriage, in mining and prospecting. These step-brothers remained in the west and their descendants today are holders of large tracts of land in Montana.

It was in the early 1880's that Charlie returned to Canton. On January 10, 1894 he married Miss Carrie Crane, daughter of Amos and Laura Fish Crane, of Canton. For many years Mr. Rich was engaged in the grocery business in Canton, starting in with Clark Ingalls, later working for the Dunn store, and finally going into business for himself, buying out the Will Sherwin and Alvin Wallace businesses. It was while so engaged, in what is now the Kaplan block, that about twenty-five years ago he suffered his first serious illness which necessitated an operation. Another similar operation was necessitated about six years ago.

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Charlie Rich was a man the people liked and trusted. He consented to serve as village trustee, was for a number of years poormaster of the town, and was many years the reliable collector of taxes for the town. He had been active in Masonic circles in former days as a member of the three Canton orders, St. Lawrence Lodge No. 111, F.& A.M., St. Lawrence Chapter No. 32, R.A.M., and St. Lawrence Commandery No. 28 K. T., as well as belonging to the Media Temple of the Mystic Shrine. For many years he was a member of The Club and one of its most regular attendants, for Charlie loved companionship. He belonged to the Universalist Church parish. In recent years his health had confined him closely to his home.

He is survived by his widow, his daughter Eileen, who is the wife of Don L. Blackman of Potsdam, and the son, Willson Charles Rich of Philadelphia. There are also four grandchildren, Patricia and Charles, the children of Mr. and Mrs. Blackmon, and Isabelle and Willson, Jr., the children of Mr. and Mrs. Willson C. Rich.

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