

[Richardson, Charles L.]

C. L. RICHARDSON, CARRIER, IS DEAD
WAS IN POSTAL SERVICE MANY YEARS
FIRST CARRIER APPOINTED

Was Named In 1883 When Carrier System Was Inaugurated In Watertown.

Charles L. Richardson, one of the two mail carriers for the Watertown postoffice who was appointed in 1883 when the carrier service was first established, died at 11 Thursday evening at his residence, 517 Holcomb street, following a brief illness, aged 67 years. He had been in poor health for several months and he was taken ill four weeks ago. He had been unable to work since March 1 of this year. Death was due to a complication of ailments.

Mr. Richardson was born Sept 17, 1852, in the town of Watertown, son of the late Charles and Chloe Gilette [Gillett] Richardson, and had spent practically his entire life here with the exception of a short time when he resided in the west. As a young man he was a clerk in The Great Wardrobe.

When 31 years old, or in 1883, Mr. Richardson was appointed mail carrier, the carrier service being established at that time. Mr. Richardson was one of the five carriers to receive the appointment. William L. Grannis, who is at present serving with the postoffice force, was also appointed April 1, 1883. John Klump and the late Timothy A. Collins were appointed three years later, in 1886. The others serving at that time were Oliver Clodwick, who conducted a cafe in this city for many years, and the late L. J. McDonald and Archie Johnson.

The city of Watertown had a population of only about 10,000 at that time and Mr. Richardson had delivered mail continuously over a period of 33 years in which the carrier staff was increased from five to its present force of 26 men, and the city of Watertown has increased three times its population when he first entered the service.

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His record is 33 years of faithful service as a carrier and in spite of [a] long record, he enjoyed good health, being forced to give up work on few occasions because of illness. He carried mail in all sorts of weather regardless of the moods of the weather man, faithfully delivering the mail in zero weather in winter and warm weather of mid-summer. Sleet, rain, snow and the furies of the elements were weathered by Mr. Richardson in his long service.

Up to the time he was appointed in 1883 residents either rented mail boxes or secured their mail through the general delivery, being obliged to call at the office during the stated hours to obtain their mail. The postoffice was then located in the Paddock arcade, in the stores occupied by the Watertown News company and the Smith barber shop. The boxes, delivery and stamp windows opened directly upon the Paddock arcade, the money order department being at the side about where the barber shop is now located.

[Richardson, Charles L.]

Mr. Richardson had delivered mail in the business section of the city for many years and was known to hundreds of business men and residents of this city.

During the past 13 years he had been one of the three mounted carriers delivering mail to remote sections of the city which cannot be readily reached by the carriers on the foot. Mr. Richardson had delivered the mail to the further section of Washington street, bringing mail to residents to Washington street, Elm and Chestnut streets. He covered this entire section with the small mail cart and horse, regulation equipment of the postoffice.

Mr. Richardson married Miss Ida Rising of Watertown in 1877, who died in 1901. Two children, Mrs. Grace Dorchester and Clinton C. Richardson, both of this city, were born of this marriage. His second wife, whom he married in 1904, was Miss Minnie Hallsted of Oxford, N. Y. One daughter, Miss Elisabeth Richardson, was born to them.

Surviving are his widow, Mrs. Minnie Hallsted Richardson, two daughters, Mrs. Grace Dorchester and Miss Elisabeth Richardson, and one son Clinton C. Richardson, all of this city, and one brother, H. C. Richardson of Bloomington, Ill.

The Richardson residence has been for many years at 517 Holcomb street. Mr. Richardson was a member of All Souls Universalist church.

Mr. Richardson is the second of the quartet of veteran mail carriers to pass away, Timothy A. Collins having passed away Thursday, March 11 this year. Mr. Klimp and Mr. Grannis are still in active service.

Daily Times, Watertown NY, Fri. 26 Mar 1920

Transcribed on 20 Dec 2023 by Karen E. Dau of East Rochester, NY