

[Sheldon, Charles Edgerton]

CHARLES E. SHELDON[,] LIFELONG RESIDENT DIED WEDNESDAY

Charles E. Sheldon, well known and prominent Sherman citizen and a life long resident of this section, passed away at his home on Miller street in this village, Wednesday morning, April 20 at 2 o'clock. He would have celebrated his 94th birthday on June 7th, of this year. Mr. Sheldon had been in his usual health Tuesday, but after retiring, was suddenly stricken and the end came suddenly.

Charles Edgerton Sheldon was born in a log cabin, near Nettel Hill, on June 7, 1844, the son of Franklin and Eliza Brigham Sheldon. Franklin Sheldon, the deceased's father was one of the pioneers of this section[,] coming here from Pawlet, Vermont in 1840 where he cleared the land and lived until his death in 1892.

Charles Sheldon received his education at Westfield Academy and Fredonia Normal. Following his graduation from Fredonia he taught select schools at Sheridan and Summerdale. It was while at Fredonia that Mr. Sheldon made a trip on foot to Dunkirk, where he saw President Lincoln, when his train made a stop there.

In February 1868 Mr. Sheldon came to Sherman where he engaged in the grocery business with J. S. Dunbar and later embarked in the hardware business with W. R. Reed. Both businesses were destroyed by fire.

On October 28, 1868, Charles E. Sheldon and Miss Emily Wood were united in marriage and to this union were born five children, three of whom survive: Miss Nella A. Sheldon at home; Mrs. Lura S. Andrews and C. Frank Sheldon of Jamestown. A daughter Addie A. passed away in 1885 at the age of 15 years and a son died in infancy. Mrs. Sheldon died in 1926. In June 1869 Mr. and Mrs. Sheldon began housekeeping in their home on Miller street, where Mr. Sheldon passed away.

On December 12, 1879 Mr. Sheldon purchased the Chautauqua News from its founder E. W. Hoag and with his brother the late A. B. Sheldon, published the paper until it was sold to M. L. Dorman on October 15, 1918 at which time it was combined with the Sherman Advance.

During the administration of President McKinley Mr. Sheldon was appointed postmaster on June 2, 1898 and served in this capacity until 1913.

In 1908 he was elected president of the Sherman Telephone Company and continued to serve in this capacity until last year when he retired.

After the sale of the Chautauqua News in 1918, Mr. Sheldon retired from active business, and since that time had resided in Sherman spending most of the winters in Florida until his strength the past couple of years would not permit him to make the trip.

Mr. Sheldon during his entire life always took an active interest in public affairs and was prominent in some of the most important changes in the village. His activity in public affairs made him a well known figure not only in this section but throughout the entire county. He maintained his interest in public

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affairs to the end, although not able to actively take part. He was an ardent baseball fan and enjoyed the games here up until last year.

He was a member of the Sherman Board of Education for 22 years and served as its president for five years. He was also an active church member, being a member of the Universalist Church of Sherman for many years and at the formation of the Community Church [after the dissolution of the Universalist congregation] was a charter member.

Mr. Sheldon was active in Masonic affairs, having been the oldest Mason in membership in Chautauqua County and on May 7, 1937, Olive Lodge of Sherman presented Mr. Sheldon with an especially engraved 50-year pin with 10 year bar attached. At the time of the presentation he had been a member of the order for 68 years. He served as master of Olive Lodge for five years. He was also a charter member and Past Patron of Acacia Chapter, O.E.S. of Sherman. He also served on the staff of the late Charles W. Mead of Albany when he was grand master. They were schoolmates in Westfield where Mr. Sheldon attended several terms.

Besides the children mentioned above, Mr. Sheldon is survived by four grandchildren, Miss Lura Andrews of Jamestown; Jack Andrews of Pittsburgh; Warner Sheldon of Montreal, Canada and Richard Sheldon of Jamestown.

Funeral services will be held from the late home today (Friday) at 2 p.m. with burial in Sherman cemetery.

Chautauqua News, Chautauqua NY, Fri. 22 Apr 1938

The death of Charles E. Sheldon occurred at his home in Sherman on April 20. He was a loyal worker in the [Universalist] church in Sherman, while it was active and has always been a supporter of the work of the State Convention. He leaves a bequest of \$500 to the State Convention, \$50 for an endowed subscription to "The Christian Leader" and \$1,000 to the Community Church in Sherman. He is survived by a son [Frank C.], two daughters [Lura and Nella] and grandchildren. He was in his ninety-fourth year.

Empire State Universalist, Cortland NY, May 1938