

## [Shipman, Ambrose Clark]

### AMBROSE CLARK SHIPMAN

Ambrose Clark Shipman, widely known throughout Central New York as an insurance executive and at the time of his death the dean of the business men of this village, passed away at his home on Nelson avenue at 3 o'clock Sunday morning as the result of heart trouble which developed following a slight shock [stroke] which he sustained last June. Mr. Shipman had been about his accustomed activities, however, until the 18th day of October, when his condition took a turn for the worse and he failed gradually until the end.

Mr. Shipman was the son of Dr. F. Burdette and Mary Ann (Pitts) Shipman and was born in the village of Middlefield January 24, 1850. When he was five years of age he moved with his parents to Watertown where the family resided until he was eighteen. He then went to New York City where he remained until his marriage four years later after which he made his home at Macomb, Ill., for three years returning thereafter to Middlefield where he resided until he moved to Cooperstown in 1888.

Mr. Shipman organized the company now known as the Otsego County Farmers' Cooperative Fire Insurance company, the original charter having been granted May 24, 1886. Under this first charter, however, the company was known as the Otsego, Middlefield and Hartwick Town Insurance company but later increased its scope until it was chartered to do business in the counties of Otsego, Delaware and Chenango and the name changed to that which it bears at present when the new charter was granted. Mr. Shipman became secretary of the company upon its organization, Dr. William A. Thayer being the first president. The late Adriel G. Murphy of Middlefield held the office of president until his death and he was succeeded by Mr. Shipman who was elected to the office July 1, 1910, his son, Frank B. Shipman, having been elected secretary at the same time. In connection with the farm insurance business Mr. Shipman also conducted a general fire insurance agency representing as agent several of the old line stock insurance companies. He was a careful and thorough student of the subject of fire insurance and his long experience gave him the rank of an authority on the subject.

The same energy, care and insight which gave him high rank in business he expended in no limited measure to the benefit of the community and various of its religious, social and civic enterprises. He was a regular and devoted attendant upon the services of the Church of the Messiah (Universalist) in this village, seldom missing a Sunday even after his hearing had become impaired, and few members have ever taken such an active interest in the welfare of any church. It was under his leadership and

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direction that the extensive repairs and improvements upon both the church and parsonage properties were recently carried out as the result of which the parsonage was made into a modern and attractive dwelling and the interior of the church transformed into a beautiful place of worship. The Universalist church stands today as a fitting memorial to his love and devotion. He was a member of Otsego Lodge, No. 138, F. & A.M., Otsego Chapter, No. 201, O.E.S., and of the Mohican and Village clubs, the Chamber of Commerce and other local civic organizations to all of which he was not only a liberal contributor in money but in valuable counsel and personal work.

Mr. Shipman was a man of decisive character, one who endeavored to reach a proper and right conclusion on questions of local and public interest and then maintained them with all the zeal of which he was possessed. An upright man, scrupulously honest in all his business dealings with his fellow men, his integrity was known and honored in the community where he lived for so many years. His genial spirit strongly evidenced by his ability to take defeat with the same good grace with which he accepted victory won him a wide circle of friends, and the children of the community to whom he was a great and good friend will all feel a deep personal loss in his death, while to his home and family to whom he was always devoted there will go out the sincere sympathy of all.

[On] October 24, 1871, he was united in marriage with Miss Cora Bowen, youngest daughter of the late Levi H. Bowen of Middlefield, who survives, together with one son, Frank B. Shipman, and two grandchildren, Miss Elinor B. Shipman and John Ambrose Shipman, all of Cooperstown, and three cousins, Mrs. Charles H. Mason of Cooperstown, Burdette S. Pitts of Middlefield, and B. A. Sheldon of New York City.

The funeral was held from the home, No. 31 Nelson avenue, Wednesday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock, his pastor, the Rev. George C. Boorn, officiating, followed by Masonic services under the direction of the officers of Otsego Lodge. Interment at Lakewood cemetery.

*Otsego Farmer*, Cooperstown NY, Fri. 16 Dec 1927

Transcribed on 18 Dec 2009 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY