

[Shumway, Walter F.]

Walter Shumway, Former Merchant Aged 82, Passes

Walter F. Shumway, 82, died at his home on Mohawk street, Fort Plain, early Wednesday morning, after having been seriously ill for the past week. Mr. Shumway suffered a stroke two years ago and since that time had had several additional strokes, but had been able to be about until a week ago.

He was born in Van Hornesville April 22, 1858, the son of Joseph H. and Cornelia Van Horne Shumway. He attended the Van Hornesville rural school and the Clinton Liberal Institute [a Universalist school] when it was at Clinton, N.Y., before it was moved to Fort Plain. Following school he was associated with his father in a store at Van Hornesville. In 1886 he engaged in the drug business in Fort Plain from which he retired September 10, 1938, having sold the business to Henry Buhrmaster, after having been engaged in the drug business for 52 years. During his career as a druggist he had two partners, the late Daniel I. Devoe, who was his brother-in-law, and the late William D. Beekman, who a number of years ago moved to California.

Devoe and Shumway bought the drug business from Pettits and Smith. There has been a drug store at this location for about 80 years.

Mr. Shumway was a member of Fort Plain Lodge 433, F. and A.M., the Universalist Church, of which he had served as treasurer for forty years. He was also superintendent of the Sunday School for two years. Mr. Shumway was a Mason of over 50 years standing.

With the passing of Walter F. Shumway Fort Plain loses one of the last of this community's sterling merchants of the old school. He was an outstanding citizen of Fort Plain and one who held the esteem and respect of our citizens. Throughout his long life in town, he still retained a heartfelt interest in his boyhood home and his boyhood associates of Van Hornesville. Although a much younger man, Owen D. Young was one of Mr. Shumway's close friends and he was a frequent visitor at the Shumway store and the Shumway home, when in town. Mr. Shumway was descended from the pioneer Van Horne who was the original settler of Van Hornesville. He will be deeply mourned by his old friends in that village as well as by his host of friends in this community and a wide area of surrounding country.

On September, 6, 1880 he married Miss Alfa Eckler of Van Hornesville, who survives him, with a sister, Mrs. John M. Farley, of West Palm Beach, Florida.; two nieces, Mr. E. Mercer Weiskotten [Ethel Devoe Weiskotten] of Utica, and Mrs. Whitney Himes (formerly Dorothy Farley) of West Palm Beach; two nephews, Walter Farley of New York City; Worthington Farley of White Plains.

The funeral will be held from the home on Saturday at 2 p.m., the Rev. William A. Haney, pastor of the Fort Plain Universalist church, officiating. Interment in the Fort Plain Cemetery.

Fort Plain Standard, Fort Plain NY, Thu. 19 Dec 1940