

[Smith, Adam J.]

DEATH OF ADAM J. SMITH

Well Known Lawyer and Former District Attorney of the County  
—Was Active in Affairs of Village, Town and County

At his home on Prospect street in this village, Wednesday night, occurred the death of Adam J. Smith, well known citizen, prominent lawyer and a man of many activities. Mr. Smith was a native of the town and his whole life had been spent here. He was born January 18th, 1857, his twin brother Jacob having died some twenty years ago [in 1905]. Mr. Smith received a common school education and later graduated from Fairfield Academy. He immediately took up the study of law in the office of Brown & Mitchell in this village and was admitted to the bar in 1881. He formed a partnership with Hon. Irving R. Devendorf, and the firm of Devendorf & Smith was for a long term of years one of the most active in the County. When Justice Devendorf was elected County Judge the partnership was dissolved and for a time Mr. Smith was associated with Charles D. Thomas and later with the late George M. Wirt. Mr. Smith excelled as a trial lawyer and always appeared at his best before a jury. In 1897 he was elected District Attorney, defeating H. A. DeCoster and being the first Democratic District Attorney elected in fifty years. Always active in Democratic politics, he represented the town of Herkimer in the Board of Supervisors in 1888 and 1889. He held the office of Town Clerk, Village Attorney, Member of the Board of Education, and Director of the Herkimer County Agricultural Society. He was his party's candidate for Member of Assembly in 1894 but was defeated by a small majority by Hon. E. La Grange Smith of Frankfort. Deceased was a member of Herkimer Masonic Lodge, Knights of Maccabees and the Herkimer County Bar Association. He is survived by his wife who was Katherine Steele, and a brother Frank, also of Herkimer. The funeral was attended from the home Saturday afternoon, Rev. L. [Lewis] H. Robinson [Universalist] officiating.

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Transcribed on 6 Jan 2024 by Karen E. Dau of East Rochester, NY