

[Smith, Bernard N.

Bernard N. Smith

Seldom does any public official serve the number of years in office which were accorded Bernard N. Smith, Lockport's first, and until his retirement Dec. 31, 1833, only, plumbing inspector. His death at the age of nearly 80 years is mourned by a host of friends, acquaintances and associates.

Mr. Smith came here when a boy from Marietta, Ohio. He learned the plumbing trade and worked at it for several years until the late John T. Darrison, then mayor, in 1893 appointed him plumbing inspector. Throughout the 41 years he devoted to this position he ably demonstrated his abilities in the faithful performance of his duties.

"Ben" Smith, as he was known to almost everyone with whom he came in touch, was the dean of the City hall. When the state law forced his retirement because he had reached the age limit, he was still in good health, and the habit of 41 years could not let him remain at home to live quietly on his pension.

Until as late as last Friday he continued to come to the City hall daily, putting in as many hours as he did before his retirement, and assisting in the various duties of the engineers' and the city treasurer's offices.

Death came suddenly and unexpectedly, after he had suffered a stroke of paralysis. The end was a shock to everyone, particularly his intimate friends and those with whom he had been associated at City hall.

*Union-Sun & Journal*, Lockport NY, Fri. 15 Aug 1941

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BERNARD N. SMITH

A stroke occurring on August 8 followed by another two days later resulted in the death of Bernard N. Smith of Lockport on August 13. He was familiarly known as "Ben." He was in his eightieth year.

Mr. Smith was the city's first plumbing inspector in 1893 and retired on pension in 1933. He continued to serve his regular hours in the city engineer's office, having the distinction of a retired public official who earned his pension. He was the man who could not retire.

He was a loyal member of the Universalist church in Lockport and served the society many years as treasurer. He was a prominent Mason. He is survived by two nephews and a niece, all of New York City. The funeral service was held on August 16.

*Empire State Universalist, Cortland NY, September 1941*

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