

[Smith, Harry Chapin]

HARRY CHAPIN SMITH

The Universalist church was filled to overflowing Friday afternoon when the funeral of Harry C. Smith was held. Members of the Perry fire department and of Constellation Lodge, No. 404, F.&A.M., attended in a body as well as Boy Scouts and scores and scores of folks with whom he had come in contact. Rev. Clara Morgan of Hornell, former pastor of the church, offered prayer and Rev. Wm. J. Metz gave the funeral sermon. Representing almost every phase of community life it was an outpouring tribute to a man whose life had touched all.

As mentioned in last week's Herald, Harry Chapin Smith passed away at the Community Hospital, Warsaw, Tuesday evening, Feb. 19 where he had been taken the previous Saturday suffering from a carbuncle which developed into a malignant condition. An operation performed as a last resort proved unsuccessful. Dr. Allen Jones of Buffalo, noted specialist, was also called into the case and verified the diagnosis made by the hospital staff.

He was the son of the late George K. and Ida Chapin Smith and was born in Perry on March 27, 1885. He attended the Perry schools and for a time was clerk in the postoffice. Later he worked in Buffalo and Schenectady and on his return to Perry was employed by Olin & Grieve and subsequently by W.T. Olin. A few years ago he took a position with a safe and lock company as an expert locksmith but again returned to Perry to resume his position with W.T. Olin. More recently he was employed by the New York Central Electric Corporation and as an individual salesman.

He was united in marriage to Miss Mary T. Clarke, daughter of Editor and Mrs. C.G. Clarke, Feb. 28, 1916. She survives as well as three sons, Chapin, Joseph and Robert and three daughters, Janet, Caroline and Eileen, varying in age from 2 months to 11 years. Two brothers, Hartwell of Lake George, N.Y., and Dolbeer of Akron, Ohio; also a sister, Mrs. A.S. Waterbury of Perry survive.

Harry C. Smith was one of those rare fellows who fill a community need and likewise are a community asset. He was a member of the Universalist church, of which he was treasurer, and also a former superintendent of the Sunday school. He was a member of the Citizens Chemical Company and a former chief of the department. When boys wanted a scoutmaster he was their choice. When they [sic] was a home talent show for the benefit of some worthy local enterprise he was one of the first to respond. Most often he was the key man and the entertainment was built around him. He was just naturally an all around handy man who never said no to the call of his friends.

[Smith, Harry Chapin]

He was, too, essentially a home man. Few fathers were more devoted than he and his hands contributed not only to the physical upbuilding of his own house but more vitally even to the sustenance of the ideal American home, typified by the highest ideals. He left this community richer for his presence, but a wife and children are bereft of a husband and father just at a time when his presence would mean so much.

Perry mourns with the family, the loss of so valued a citizen whose passing has so deeply touched the hearts of all.

Perry Herald, Perry NY, Wed. 27 Feb 1929

Transcribed on 29 Sep 2011 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY