

[Smithers, Jeffrey W.]

JEFFREY W. SMITHERS, ILL FOR MONTHS, DIES
Engaged in Business in Canton for Quarter of a Century

Jeffrey W. Smithers, engaged in business in this village for nearly a quarter of a century, a fraternity and club man for long years, passed away at his home, Goodrich Street, Friday at 12:10 in the afternoon after an illness of several months. Funeral service was conducted at the home Sunday afternoon at 2:30, Dr. Richard Eddy Sykes, president emeritus of St. Lawrence University, officiating. Interment was made at Fairview Cemetery. A memorial service was conducted at the grave by St. Lawrence Commandery, No. 28, Knights Templar.

Mr. Smithers was born in the town of Lisbon on March 25, 1878, the son of the late Joseph C. and Emeline Smithers. He was named for an uncle, John W. Jeffrey, for long years a resident of this village, where he was engaged in business. The Smithers family removed to a farm in the town of DeKalb when he was a child, and his early life was spent in that town until he came to Canton over forty years ago. He was engaged for some time in the store of the Canton Hardware Co., run at the time in the Champlin Block, where the Sidel Store is. J. Fred Hammond was at that time manager of the store.

On March 1, 1916, he formed a partnership with his brother-in-law, Harold S. Barnes, the firm taking over the Canton Hardware and conducting it for some time in the same building, but later on purchasing the Sackrider store on the corner of Hodskin and Main Street where they conducted a general hardware and plumbing business until Jan. 1, 1937, when Mr. Smithers retired and established a plumbing and hardware business in a building, No. 1 Hodskin Street, built by Barnes & Smithers in 1917. This business was continued by Mr. Smithers but on April 7, 1940, he announced his retirement on account of the condition of his health. He had not been at the store since, though it has been conducted to this time, in charge of John W. McCarthy.

Mr. Smithers was happily married in 1901 to Miss Anna Barnes of this place, a sister of Harold S. Barnes, and a daughter of the late Sanford Barnes, and granddaughter of Truman Barnes, and a great-granddaughter of Jesse Barnes who came into the town from Connecticut in its very early days and settled on the road between Brick Chapel and Smith's Corners, now Martyn's Corners, Canton-Russell road.

Mr. Smithers was active for many years in Masonry; he was of the type that makes the good fraternity man. He was a member of St. Lawrence Lodge, No. 111, F. & A. M.; St. Lawrence Chapter, No. 132, Royal Arch Masons; St. Lawrence Commandery, No. 28, Knights Templar; Media

[Smithers, Jeffrey W.]

Temple, A. A. O. Nobles of the Mystic Shrine of Watertown; the Knights of Birmingham—he was really the father of St. Lawrence Cavern, Knights of Birmingham of Canton; Empire Chapter, No. 68, Order of Eastern Star. Was one of the organizers of the Canton Chamber of Commerce; a member of the Stillwater Club and, also a member of the Universalist Church.

Mr. Smithers was one of those men who made and retained friends. He was a fine, loyal, generous hearted member of the community. He will be missed.

He leaves besides the widow, Mrs. Anna Barnes Smithers, a daughter, Mrs. Irene B. Hale, a sister, Mrs. Anna Barnes, and a brother, John A. Smithers of Rochester.

Commercial Advertiser, Canton NY, Tue. 18 May 1940

Transcribed on 14 Apr 2009 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY