

[Stiles, Lauren E.]

Lauren E. Stiles Meets Tragic Death in Accident at Stiles Farm
VICTIM OF FALL AT FARM NORTH OF THIS VILLAGE

Lauren E. Stiles, lifelong resident of the town of Canton and during recent years a resident of this village, with [a] home at 23 Pine Street, met instant death through a fall at the Stiles farm about three miles north of this village on the old Brewer Road, Wednesday morning at about 9:30.

Mr. Stiles was engaged with men at the farm. An ensilage cutter with blower was being operated at the large barn. He stood in a door in the gable about 25 feet from the ground, through which the blower was carrying the chopped hay into the barn for storage. The pipe of the blower needed extension to blow the ensilage further in. He was engaged in adding an extension pipe at the extreme end when in some manner he lost his balance and pitched head foremost to the ground below, striking on the ensilage cutter. Death was instantaneous.

An inquest was held later and the physician and Mrs. Florence L. Dunlop, coroner, of Madrid pronounced death due to fracture of the skull. The fall must have in any case caused death it is believed, [he] landing as he did.

Mr. Stiles who was born in the locality and spent his early life on the farm, was the son of Mrs. Bertha Farmer Stiles and the late Bert E. Stiles. With the old Stiles farm within recent years adjoining, farms were taken into operation so that he operated three farms.

Mr. Stiles was a veteran of the First World War, spending during that war one year overseas. On his return he came to the farm but later on to this village. For many years he was engaged in contracting work, excavation, road building. He had extensive contracts on highway and dam sections, the latter at Eel Weir Park, near Ogdensburg and the dam and power project near Parishville in the St. Regis River. He had a considerable contract at one time at Lake Placid and also up Racket [Racquette] River on the Colton-Tupper Lake road section.

When Owen D. Young opened up the extensive east of St. Lawrence University Campus, Mr. Stiles had the job of grading and landscaping under the direction of a landscape artist. It is recalled that a number of home cellar excavations twenty or more years ago were handled by him and that he was engaged in various work of this nature for a number of years.

A number of years ago he was appointed commissioner of streets and parks of Canton village, later retiring from this and being succeeded by Amos Hennigan, the present commissioner.

He was born in Canton Feb. 19, 1896, and received his education in Canton High School and the N.Y. State Agricultural and Technical Institute.

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He was interested in game and fish and served for some time as secretary of the St. Lawrence County Fish & Game Club. He was affiliated with the Masonic Order and was a member of the First Universalist Church of Canton.

He was married Feb. 12, 1934 to Miss Grace E. Cotter, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Cotter of Canton, in a ceremony at St. Mary's Cathedral Rectory, Ogdensburg, the Very Rev. John E. Plunkett officiating.

Mr. Stiles is survived by his widow, Mrs. Grace Cotter Stiles, a son, Lauren Albert, aged 4 years and 6 months, his mother, Mrs. Bertha Farmer Stiles, a resident of East Main Street, this village. An only sister, Mrs. Harry (Anna) Farmer, of Norwood, died the past year.

Funeral services were conducted at the home, Pine Street, at 2:30 Saturday afternoon, the Rev. Dr. Edson R. Miles, faculty member at St. Lawrence University, officiating. Burial was made at Evergreen Cemetery.

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