

[Storrs, Frank E.]

Last of the L. B. Storrs Family
Frank E. Storrs Buried Here Yesterday
Father, Inventor, Was One of Founders of St. Lawrence University

Frank E. Storrs, the last of the children of that interesting, and to Canton, historically important family, died Saturday morning [15 Jan 1944] at Ogdensburg. He was 88 years of age, and until about three years ago, as erect, healthy and mentally keen as a man of fifty or sixty. Funeral services were held from the Lawrence undertaking parlors yesterday with Dr. Edson R. Miles officiating, with burial to be in the spring at Evergreen.

The Storrs family will go down in Canton history in at least three respects. Levi Bidwell Storrs, the father of Frank, was one of the founders of St. Lawrence University, serving as its first secretary, 1856-1884, as its treasurer, 1863-1882, and as a trustee. Next, Levi Storrs became one of Canton's principal industrialists. He invented a clothes pressing machine, a cast iron affair which had a container for hot coals. Had he sufficiently protected his patents the invention might have made him famous and brought him riches. The son, Frank, labored many years with his father in manufacturing this device, and in so doing became a skilled machinist, a trade he followed the rest of his life. And, thirdly, the Storrs family contributed much to the community as musicians.

Frank Storrs was born in the family residence on Court Street. This property was sold a year ago to the Seventh Day Adventists. His education was confined to the old Canton Academy and while still in his youth he elected to join his father in the latter's local machine shop. After the Storrs Machine Shop closed, he located in Watertown and for many years was an employee of the J. B. Wise Company. Finally, after the death of his wife in 1923, he retired to his Canton home. A year ago his health had failed to a point where it became necessary to have him enter a nursing home, first at Morley and then at Ogdensburg.

The parents were devoted members of the Universalist Church and it was in that interest that Levi B. Storrs, with other local people, undertook to secure the selection of Canton as the site of a new Universalist Theological School. This effort was more successful than the workers anticipated, for when the state granted the charter, it was to the St. Lawrence University.

The children of Mr. and Mrs. L. B. Storrs were all talented as musicians, and Frank in his later years loved nothing better than an evening with the late Frank Heaton, playing his guitar while Frank fiddled. His sister the late Miss Carrie Storrs was for 47 years organist at the Universalist Church and a music teacher.

The brothers [sic] of Frank Storrs were Resolvo, whose daughter is Mrs. John Lynch of Bloomfield, N. J.; Levi, who clerked in Canton and was a local Democratic politician; Imogene, who married Robert Stocking, their sons Frank of Montreal and Robert of Hollis, L.I., being among the survivors; Miss Carrie, as mentioned above; and Ellen, who married Dr. [Henry Clement] Austin and was the grandmother of Mrs. Roy Place, now of Star Lake.

Frank E. Storrs married Miss Adele Underwood of Auburn on October 10, 1883. She died in 1923. Their daughter, Mrs. Grace B. [Clifford] Watson of Philadelphia, Pa., is the immediate survivor. She and her son, Theodore, are in Canton for the funeral.

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