

[Sturges, Francis A.]

Ex-Judge Sturges Dies in Albion

ALBION—Francis A. Sturges, 78, of 327 W. State St., former Orleans County Judge, surrogate and Family Court judge, died yesterday (Aug. 27, 1967) in Arnold Gregory Memorial Hospital following several years of failing health.

Born in the Town of Carlton, Judge Sturges attended Kenyonville District School, Waterport Union Free School and was graduated from Albion High School with the Class of 1909. He taught in the Carlton District School for a year then attended Wesleyan University in Middletown, Conn., graduating in 1914.

He went back to teaching in Albion High School and coached football and baseball for a year to obtain funds for Albany Law School, which he entered in September 1915.

World War I interrupted the course and he served in the 307th Field Artillery 1917-1919, finally graduating from law school in June 1920.

After a year with a Buffalo law firm, Judge Sturges returned to Albion and became a partner with John C. Knickerbarker, a former Orleans district attorney. After Knickerbarker's death, Judge Sturges continued the law practice alone. He was county, surrogate and Family Court judge, 1951-59, and previously had served several years as Albion police justice.

A past commander of Sheret Post 35, American Legion, he also was past president of the Albion Lions Club and past trustee of Pullman Memorial Universalist Church. He was a former member of the Albion Board of Education and the Town Club. For many years he had been active in Boy Scouts and Little League Baseball.

On his 75th birthday anniversary, the judge said, "The most rewarding part of my career has been the years I spent as Children's Court judge. With only a few decisions for background precedents at that time, we had to feel our way along. We tried to follow the investigations of conditions and base our decisions on those facts. We made sure that we carried out the spirit of the new Children's Court Act in the effective solution of family problems."

Democrat and Chronicle, Rochester NY, Mon. 28 Aug 1967

[Sturges, Francis A.]

Francis A. Sturges

ALBION—Funeral services for Francis A. Sturges, retired Orleans County judge and surrogate, will be held at 2 Wednesday afternoon at the Merrill-Grinnell Funeral Home, 12 Ingersoll St.

Judge Sturges, 78, died Sunday in Arnold Gregory Memorial Hospital here after a long illness. Burial will be in Mt. Albion Cemetery.

He was born in Carlton, and was a graduate of Wesleyan University, Middletown, Conn., and Albany Law School.

Judge Sturges was admitted to the State Bar Ass. in 1920, where he became a partner in the John C. Knickerbocker law firm here.

He served as police justice for the Village of Albion for several years before his election to the judgeship in 1950. Judge Sturges served in that capacity until 1959, when he reached the mandated retirement age of 70.

The judge was a charter member and a past commander of Sheret Post 35, American Legion. He also served as judge-advocate of the post for several years.

Judge Sturges was a former member of the Board of Education of Albion Central School. He was a past president of the Albion Lions Club, and was active in Scouting and the Albion Little League baseball programs.

He was a member and a former trustee of the Pullman Memorial Universalist Church.

Surviving are his son, David M. of Stamford, Conn., a daughter, Mrs. Levi Woodcock of here; a sister, Miss Bertha Sturges of Kenyonville, and two granddaughters.

Buffalo Courier-Express, Buffalo NY, Mon. 28 Aug 1967

Transcribed on 25 Jun 2014 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY