

[Tower, John Phelps]

DEATH CLAIMS JOHN P. TOWER
Well Known Gloversville Resident Dies Following Long Illness

John Phelps Tower, 72, who for many years was a clerk at the Hotel Kingsborough and a well known man in Gloversville, died at his home at 239 North Main street this morning at 4:10 o'clock. He had been ill for several months and his passing was not unexpected. He was a major of the Knights of Pythias lodge.

Mr. Tower was 72 years of age having been born in Boston in 1852. He was a resident of Fort Plain for many years but came to Gloversville twenty-one years ago, where he had since maintained his residence and taken an important part in affairs of the community. He was especially strong as a fraternal man and through this avenue and his stewardship at the desk of the Hotel Kingsborough he had acquired extensive acquaintances and a host of loyal, admiring friends. He had been clerk at the hotel for eight years. Years ago when the Glen Telephone company was formed, Mr. Tower personally solicited subscribers to the service and it was one of the most extensive bits of work in his career.

While Mr. Tower was known in many circles, it was as a member of the Knights of Pythias that he gained his greatest prominence. He had been affiliated with the organization for 35 years, having joined Fort Plain Lodge No. 22 at the age of 36. He retained his membership there. He had gained considerable prestige as a Knight and held the title of "Major" for many years.

His career as a high official of the order started in Fort Plain when he was made a first sergeant and served with distinction in the uniform rank. He was elected regimental major under Col. Charles Lutton, of the Second Regiment U.R.K. of P. and served sixteen years under that official. He was made brigadier major under General Middaugh and served through his administration of eight years. He retained his interest in the K. of P. to the last and only Saturday, June 14, attended the Memorial services of the order, riding to the cemetery in a carriage with other veteran members of the order.

Besides activities as a K. of P. Major Tower was also a prominent Elk. He was a member of Gloversville lodge No. 226 and one of its most interested and active members. He was also a member of the Royal Arcanum and Hermion Temple Pythian Sisters. He was active in church circles as a member of the All Souls Universalist church of which he was a charter member.

The survivors include his widow, Mrs Emma Abel Tower; one sister, Mrs. Annie Sherman of Worcester, Mass., a nephew William H. Abel of this city and several nieces.

The funeral will be held on Saturday afternoon. A prayer service will be held at 2 o'clock at the home and the public service, at 2:30 at All Souls Universalist church. Rev. D. [DeWitt] C. Reilly, pastor, will officiate and interment will be made in Fort Plain cemetery.

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