

[Vibbard, John B.]

DEATH CLAIMS JOHN B. VIBBARD, RETIRED CENTRAL FREIGHT AGENT

John B. Vibbard, 82, retired New York Central freight agent here, died this morning at 7 o'clock at his home, 134 Market Street. Mr. Vibbard had completed 51 years and eight months of service with the New York Central when he retired December 31, 1938. In addition to his railroad duties he was long prominent in Masonic circles.

He was born at Vibbard's Corners, Town of Ballston, Saratoga County, August 19, 1869, a son of James Monterey and Arabella Speir Vibbard.

The family continued to live at Vibbard's Corners until he was three years old, then moving to Schenectady, where Mr. Vibbard attended the public schools until he was 12 years of age.

In 1881 the family located in the Village of Nelliston, Montgomery County, where Mr. Vibbard attended school until he was 17.

[On] October 1, 1883, his father entered the employ of the old New York West Shore and Buffalo Railroad Company, serving as the company's first agent in the Village of Fort Plain, just across the river from Nelliston, and on May 1, 1887, the son followed his father's example, taking a position as clerk in the same company at Fort Plain. He was employed in this capacity until August 15, 1908, when he was appointed agent at Fort Plain.

[On] July 16, 1919, Mr. Vibbard was appointed freight agent for the New York Central in Amsterdam, succeeding the late John A. Lockrow, and he continued to discharge the duties of this important post with satisfaction and efficiency up to the time of his retirement. His length of service here was 19 years and six months.

As a railroad man, Mr. Vibbard served under 11 division superintendents, among them being Frederick E. Williamson, who afterward became president of the New York Central lines.

Mr. Vibbard was not only prominent in railroad and civic circles, but long was actively identified with the Masonic fraternity in Mohawk Valley. He served Fort Plain Lodge, 433, F. and A.M., as its master during the years 1902, 1903, and 1904, and again in 1912, and he was an honorary member of the Welcome Lodge, 829.

In 1905 he was appointed District Deputy Grand Master of the old Nineteenth Masonic District, now the Fulton-Montgomery District. He served in that capacity during 1905 and 1906.

Mr. Vibbard was a member of the Past Masters' Association of the Fulton-Herkimer-Montgomery District, having once served as president. He was also a member of the Amsterdam Chamber of Commerce, the Mohawk Valley Towns Association, the Pine Woods Camp Association, Capitol Chapter of the Veterans Association for the New York Central, the New York Central

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Lines Square Club, the Railroad Y.M.C.A. at Albany and the Universalist Church in Fort Plain.

Survivors are his wife, the former Lizzie Scott to whom he was married in 1892; two daughters, Mrs. Katherine Roarke, Amsterdam, and Mrs. Basil C. Gray, Wellesley Hills, Mass.; one brother, Leonard N. Vibbard, Rome, N.Y.; a sister, Mrs. Winifred Wesselis, Fort Plain, and two grandchildren, Bradford C. and Katherine A. Gray, Wellesley Hills.

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DIED.

VIBBARD—January 24, 1952, John B. Vibbard. Funeral at the funeral house of Johnson-Lindsay Saturday afternoon at 4 o'clock, the Rev. Lyman Achenbach of Universalist Church, Fort Plain, officiating. Interment in Fort Plain Cemetery. Friends may call at the funeral house Friday evening from 7 until 9 o'clock.

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Transcribed on 11 Dec 2009 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY