

[Wallace, Wilber O.]

Wilber O. Wallace Dies at Columbus
NATIVE OF CANTON, OF PIONEER WALLACE FAMILY

Receipt has been made of a letter announcing the death of a native of this village, the member of an old pioneer Canton family, Wilber O. Wallace, who passed in Columbus, O., on Easter Sunday, aged 86 years. Mrs. Swingle, the younger daughter, has written to this paper the following interesting letter, accompanied by a clipping from a Columbus paper:

Mrs. Swingle's letter:

Columbus, Ohio
April 30, 1943

Dear Sir,

I am sending a clipping from the Columbus Dispatch which I thought you might care to see. It is the account of my father's death which occurred shortly after midnight of Easter Sunday. As far as we know, 'Dad,' as everyone called him, was the last of his generation of Wallaces, since the death of his cousin, Matthew Wallace, about a year ago. My father leaves us six children, all of whom, except myself, were born in Canton, N.Y. I was born after my parents came to Ohio.

I am very certain that Canton has had no more loyal a son than Dad, nor one more interested in your fine St. Lawrence University.

Most sincerely his daughter,
Dorothy Wallace Swingle
(Mrs. Arthur D.)
808 Kelton Ave.
Columbus, Ohio

The clipping:

Wilber O. Wallace

Wilber O. (Dad) Wallace, 86, retired, who for 20 years operated the Wallace confectionery, 79 Parsons Av., died at his home, 203 Parsons Av., Monday after a brief illness. He was a native of Canton, N.Y., coming here 40 years ago.

He is survived by four daughters, Mrs. Harold Caulkins and Miss Lois Wallace of the home; Mrs. Arthur Swingle, 808 Kelton Av., and Mrs. Frank R. Christy, 494 Kimball Pl.; two sons, Carlton, 690 Welch Av., and Leslie, 501 Kimball Pl., and eight grandchildren.

Friends may call after Tuesday noon at the residence, where services will be conducted at 2:30 p.m. Wednesday by Dr. F. F. Bishop, of First Universalist Church, of which Mr. Wallace was a member. Burial will be made in Green Lawn, in charge of Schoedinger & Co.

[Wallace, Wilber O.]

Wilber O. Wallace will be recalled serving many years in a clerical position in this village, and later for many years conducting his own grocery store in this village, at times independent and at one time in partnership with a cousin, Alvin Wallace. He clerked in the old Caldwell grocery store on the corner of Hodskin and Main streets as a youth. The writer, as a small boy recalls him very well at the time as a very courteous young clerk, making the country boy lose a little of his shyness. Charley and Hodie Caldwell, and their father, Theodore Caldwell, Sr., ran the business at the time.

He was the son of Solomon Wallace, one of the pioneer Wallaces who came into Canton about 1821, two other brothers, Orson and Matthew and the father, Matthew, being of that group of Vermonters who first settled in Parishville in 1814 and seven years later came on to Canton. Orson Wallace, Wilber's uncle, became the richest farmer in Canton, owning a mile square of the best land in the vicinity of Brick Chapel. Matthew Wallace, son of Orson, and cousin of Wilber, died within recent years. He owned the home on the Pierrepont road still known as the Wallace place, sugarbush out on the road, and stone columns at the gateway, leading back to the home in the rear of the wooded section.

Wilber Wallace as the writer recalls, married a member of the Melhinch family of Canton, Naomi Melhinch. The home was over on Church Street, where the Flynn place now is. Wilber Wallace came to Canton a number of years ago while he was still in business in Columbus. One never saw a happier man than he was after he came down Park street. He loved the old town and continued to hold deep devotion and loyalty to it through the forty years he was away. While here on that visit he visited all the old acquaintances he could find living, and walked to the old scenes down on the river, the old rock swimming hole still there unused, drew from him memories of the old days. When he left Canton the river section was a lively manufacturing place, but he found it a ruin of ancient unused falling shops and foundations where once stood shops and factories.

Wilber Wallace will be recalled by the old timers still living in Canton, but forty years has almost swept the deck of these who in Canton at the time he left here, most of his old neighbors and friends are gone. There are few of the old line of Wallaces left in this section.

Commercial Advertiser, Canton NY, Tue. 4 May 1943

Transcribed on 2 Sep 2013 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY