

[Walrath, Alphonzo]

HON. ALPHONZO WALRATH DEAD
Former Member of Assembly Passes Away
A FORT PLAIN CITIZEN

Distinguished Republican Manufacturer, Inventor, and Musician Succumbs
After Lingering Illness—Served Two Years in Lower Branch of Legislature—
Leader of Affairs in His Home Town

Hon. Alphonzo Walrath died, after a lingering illness of several weeks, at his home on Lydius street in Fort Plain Tuesday afternoon at 4:10, aged 63 years. In the death of Mr. Walrath, Fort Plain loses one of its best citizens. In the village and surrounding country, where he was well known and always greeted as a friend, his passing away is sincerely mourned. The deceased has been in poor health for a number of years, but until within the past six weeks has led a life of great activity, especially in a business way. He was of an inventive turn of mind from early boyhood, and as he grew older he invented many things, which will survive to tell of the results that can be attained by hard and faithful work. His principal business had been the manufacture of broom machinery and parts, such as corn huskers, hurl cutters and ferrules, most, if not all of which have been invented by him. His machines have been set to, and are being used in every country. His manufacturing plant, which was started some years ago upon a small scale, is considered among the most desirable in Fort Plain.

In politics Mr. Walrath was a strong Republican, and had been honored by his party many times. He served his village in the capacity of president and trustee for years and his town as assessor. During the years of 1900-1901 he served his party in the state assembly, where he won many admirers and friends because of his fearless stand for what he considered the right. In the campaign of 1899 Mr. Walrath's opponent was Counselor James W. Ferguson of this city, whom he defeated by 1,026. The following year he ran against Smith W. Brumley of Amsterdam, who was beaten by 512.

Mr. Walrath was an influential member of the Fort Plain club, in which he was a social favorite and where his presence will be greatly missed. He was a Mason in high standing, being a member of Fort Plain lodge, F. and A.M., No. 433, Hiram chapter, Canajoharie, Little Falls commandery, and Cyprus Temple, Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, of Albany. Nearly his whole life had been devoted to music and he was the organizer and leader for years of the Old Fort Plain band and orchestra. He conducted the Universalist church choir for a long time and a musical event at Fort Plain without Alphonzo Walrath as leader was never considered just right. Many are the young men who by his good advice have taken the path leading toward success.

Mr. Walrath was born in the town of Danube, Herkimer county, the only son of Jacob and Eliabeth Walrath, November 1, 1840. His education was

[Walrath, Alphonzo]

obtained in the district schools. His father was a farmer and he engaged in agricultural pursuits until he was twenty years of age, when he opened a boot and shoe store in Fort Plain and conducted it one year, when he removed to Little Falls, where he remained two years. Returning to Fort Plain he began the business which he followed to the time of his death. He married Mary E., daughter of T. [Theodore] B. Farley, who with six children survive[s]. They are: Mrs. Edward C. Crane of Syracuse, Nettie, Jessie, Hazel and Mary of Fort Plain, and Alton A., also of that village.

The deceased will be buried with Masonic honors from his late home at 2 o'clock on Friday afternoon.

Evening Recorder, Amsterdam NY, Wed. 1 Jun 1904

Transcribed on 2 Sep 2011 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY