

[Walrath, Louis E.]

Louis E. Walrath

The death of Louis E. Walrath, one of the oldest and best respected attorneys in Otsego county and a native and life-long resident of Cooperstown, occurred at his home, No. 91 Chestnut street, at 4:30 o'clock Tuesday afternoon, as the result of a heart attack which he suffered Wednesday of last week.

Mr. Walrath was the son of Oliver James and Alvira E. (Miner) Walrath and was born December 25, 1859, in a house that stood on the site that is now the entrance of the Lake Front park on Lake street. He attended the Cooperstown Union school which later became the Cooperstown High school, and then read law in the office which is now the office of the Leatherstocking corporation at the entrance of the Cooper Grounds.

He was admitted to the bar November 24, 1882, and was actively engaged in the practice of his profession from that time down to the date of his last sickness, a period which, had he lived until November 24th of this year, would have spanned sixty years. For a considerable period he was a partner of the late James W. Tucker of this village. After Mr. Tucker's death he practiced alone until January 1, 1938, when he formed the law firm of Walrath & Hintermister with Attorney William O. Hintermister of this village as a partner. The relationship continued until the present.

Mr. Walrath exemplified in his private and professional life the highest standards of American citizenship and maintained the best traditions of his profession. He was respected and admired both by the laity and by his fellow attorneys as a man of sterling character and much ability. He scorned shame of all kinds and consistently kept principle above profit. Throughout his life he maintained a keen interest in village affairs and supported those things that he believed were for the best interests of the community and its people.

For many years he was an active supporter of the Cooperstown Chamber of Commerce and of the Cooperstown Fire Department. He was a member of the first Hook and Ladder company of the village and received his honorable discharge from the department May 15, 1899. He was a member and president of the Native Sons of Cooperstown, a director and president of the Lakewood Cemetery association, a director and vice-president of the Otsego county Historical society, a member of the New York State Historical Association and a member of the Otsego county Bar association. He served for several years as Deputy County Clerk under George Van Horne and Lee B. Cruttenden.

He was a man of quiet geniality, a great lover of his home and family and a "grand neighbor," as one of them expressed it upon learning of his death.

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He was also a true patriot and took a leading place in all movements of this character. A wide circle of friends will feel a deep sense of personal regret at his passing.

[On] October 17, 1888, at Portsmouth, N.H., Mr. Walrath was united in marriage with Edna Crissy Grace, who died June 11, 1940. Surviving are three sons, Charles J. Walrath and Louis G. Walrath of Los Angeles, Calif., and Douglas O. Walrath of Cooperstown, and three grandchildren, Miss Florence Walrath and Douglas K. and James Oliver Walrath, all of Cooperstown.

Funeral services will be held Friday afternoon at 2 o'clock at the Ingalls Funeral Home on Chestnut street. The Rev. Charles Kramer [pastor of the Universalist Church] will officiate. The body will be cremated and the ashes placed in the family plot beside the grave of Mrs. Walrath in Lakewood cemetery. His two sons in Los Angeles, Cal., left by plane Tuesday night to attend the funeral.

*Otsego Farmer*, Cooperstown NY, Fri. 15 May 1942

Transcribed on 23 Nov 2012 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY