

Dr. John G. Towne Dies On Train Enroute Home

Funeral Arrangements Will Be Announced



DR. JOHN G. TOWNE

John Gerald Towne, 76, physician and soldier, died Friday morning on a train which was taking him home to Waterville from Florida where he had gone several weeks ago to spend the winter in Fort Myer, Fla., as had been his custom for a number of years.

Details of his passing were not available Friday night, but from information obtained death occurred as the train was approaching Washington, D. C. With him at the time were his nephew, Dr. Charles E. Towne and Miss Louise Laney of the nursing staff of Thayer Hospital, Waterville.

Dr. Towne had been in ill health for a long time, but went to his winter home in Florida this year, as usual. Two weeks ago he suffered a fall in his home and injured an eye. He had been under treatment in a hospital in

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Doctor—

(Continued from the First Page)

Tampa, but it was decided that it would be better for him to come home to Thayer Hospital for treatment.

Dr. Charles Towne left Waterville last Saturday for Tampa and planned the trip so as to arrive in Waterville late Thursday, but Miss Laney's plane was delayed by the weather, thus delaying their start from Florida.

It is expected that the body will arrive in Waterville this afternoon. Mrs. Lillian Towne, his widow, who remained in Fort Myer, to arrange some details of closing the home there, is expected to be in Waterville Sunday night.

Funeral arrangements await the arrival of survivors.

Dr. Towne entered the medical profession following his education in the Waterville schools and after graduation from the Baltimore University School of Medicine in 1900. He established his practice in Waterville in June of that year.

With periods out during his war service he continued in that practice up to a few years ago, when he retired. But even then he treated patients at his home, giving the same personal and sympathetic care to each one that characterized his work throughout his career.

During his private practice he served for five years on the State Board of Health and for 18 years he was a member of the State Board of Registration for medicine.

He was active in the former Elm City Hospital on Western Avenue and was its chief of staff until it closed. He was also on the staff of the Sisters' Hospital until his retirement.

He was Kennebec County medical examiner from the World War I period until the middle 1940's and was succeeded in this office by his nephew, Dr. Charles E. Towne.

Dr. Towne threw himself unselfishly into his work in the medical department of the Maine National Guard. He enlisted as a private in the Waterville detachment of four men in 1908 and when the Second Maine Infantry detachment of 13 men was concentrated in this city, he was appointed sergeant-in-charge. He was promoted to first lieutenant at the first vacancy and rose to captain and was a major when the regiment was called to active service on the Mexican Border in June, 1916.

When the regiment became a part of the 26th Division in World War I in 1917, he was called back to duty and was given command of the field hospital section of the Yankee Division.

Later he was in charge of a hospital at Lecorno, France, and at the close of the war he was attending surgeon at Base No. 2, Bordeaux.

In World War II, Dr. Towne was assigned to duty with the Selective Service board in Augusta.

He was a lieutenant colonel at the close of the First World War and became a colonel when head of the medical department of the Maine National Guard.

Upon his retirement from the military service he was given the rank of brigadier general.

When the American Legion was founded he was the first commander of George N. Bourque Post in Waterville. He was an early department of Maine commander and was elected a national vice commander of the Legion in 1926 and the following year served as a member of the national executive committee.

About a year ago he was made a life member of Bourque-Lanigan Post.

Dr. Towne was born in Waterville May 26, 1876. He was the son of Edwin and Lydia Gerald Towne. June 23, 1903, he was married to Lillian M. Marwick, daughter of Capt. and Mrs. E. H. Marwick of Farmington. The wedding taking place in the Congregational Church in Farmington and being performed by the Rev. Edwin Smith.

A daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth M. Bacheller, wife of Guy M. Bacheller, survives him and there are five grandchildren. Also surviving is his nephew, Dr. Charles E. Towne.

The Townes observed their golden wedding anniversary last June.

Dr. Towne was active in the Pleasant Street Methodist Church. He was long a member of Waterville Lodge, F. & A. M., Teconnet

Chapter, Royal Arch Masons, and St. Omer Commandery, Knights Templar, the Order of the Eastern Star, Waterville and Kora Temple, Mystic Shrine, of Lewiston, as well as a number of other organizations.

A lover of music Dr. Towne sang in choirs and quartets and helped enliven many a gathering with his piano playing and tenor singing. His sister, Miss Eva Towne, a music instructor, died early in December.

And there are hundreds of men and women in Waterville and vicinity who are on Dr. John Towne's long list of infants whom he has helped bring into the world.

His interest in Waterville affairs led him to become a member of the Board of Education. He was elected first from ward four in 1915 and served for the next four years. He was again elected in 1925 and was a member through 1930. He was chairman of the board in 1915, 1928, 1929 and 1930.

In 1929 he was the Republican candidate for mayor of the city and lost to F. Harold Dubord.

THE WEATHER

Rain

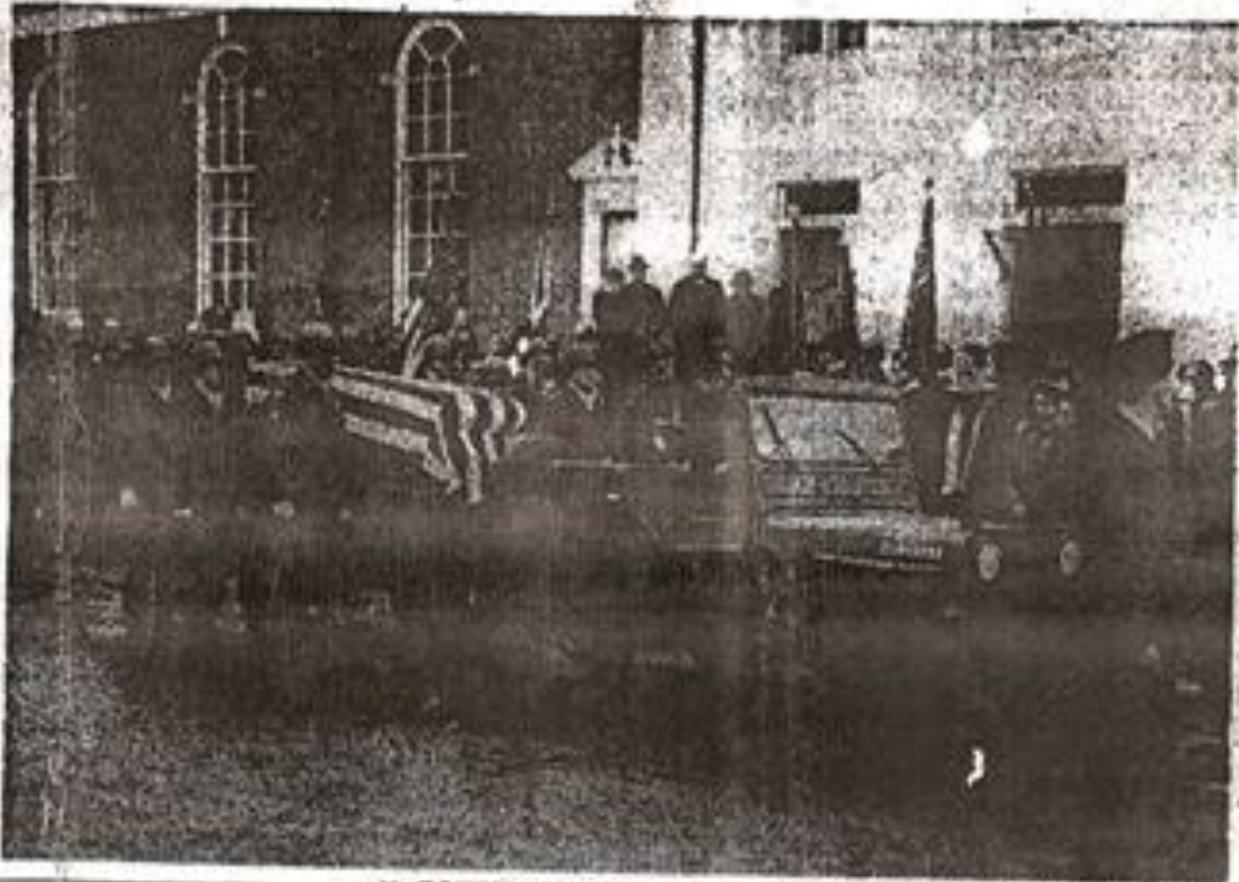
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Waterville

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WATERVILL



TOWNE FUNERAL PROCESSION—The funeral procession leaves the Pleasant Street Methodist Church Tuesday after services for Dr. John G. Towne. Casket was drawn on caisson by jeep as part of military ceremonies. (Photo by Sentinelman Tobey)

Slump In Textiles Brings Layoffs At Local Plant

H & W Readying Modernization Plans

Apprehension about the future of the cotton textile field in northern plants is shared here and a sheeting plant here is feeling the effects of a slack market but employment and production conditions in three other major plants of the Waterville area

Hundreds Attend Funeral Of Doctor John G. Towne

A "beloved physician and friend" was eulogized here Tuesday, as, with full military pomp, funeral service for Dr. John G. Towne was held, in the Methodist Church, filled with friends and a band-led procession to the Pine Grove Cemetery for committal.

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Grove Cemetery for committal.

More than medicine or skill the personality of Dr. Towne may have aided his patients. Rev. Lester L. Boobar, pastor of the Methodist Church, said in his funeral service. He recalled that many times he has heard, although Dr. Towne was retired, "He was our doctor" in tones of pride.

A "public friend", one who "watches over our entrance and our exit" in the world was another Boobar reference to the late doctor.

He recalled that, as an ex-serviceman, Dr. Towne was one who believed in "fellowship" of war veterans and who worked earnestly for the establishment of the American Legion.

Men high in the ranks of the Legion were present for the services and citizens watched as the body of Dr. Towne was transported to the cemetery on a caisson, preceded by National Guardsmen, including a firing squad and buglers in a procession led by the Waterville High School band, under the direction of Anthony Tercak.

The procession started after the band played "Onward Christian Soldiers".

Honorary parade marshal was General Albert Greenlaw, with local Legion Commander Simon Karter, General John F. Choate was parade marshal and ensued colors followed him. Then there came past department and post commanders of the Legion, who

acted as honorary bearers and representatives of the old Yankee Division, with which Dr. Towne was affiliated in World War I. With the caisson were six active bearers from Company I of the 103rd Infantry. Family cars and vehicles with patriotic delegations followed.

Attesting as much as the eulogy to the esteem in which the late doctor was held were the many people in the church. They included Mayor Richard J. Dubord, the former Mayors, people from all walks of life and endeavors.

After the service in the church they filed by the bier of the man whose life here was conducted on a dignified but genial basis, with service to others paramount. All were grave, some were moved to tears.

The legion uniform was much in evidence. Dr. Towne achieved high national stature in the organization, was the first commander of the former George N. Bourque Post of the Legion here.

Full military committal services were held at the grave in Pine Grove Cemetery with Ivan Forsythe, chaplain of Bourque-Lanigan Post, officiating.

The Masonic Quartet including Donald MacLeod, Cecil Hutchinson, B. Wentworth Greenleaf and Roland Pinkham, sang during the service. Their selections were Remember Now Thy Creator and Beautiful Isle of Somewhere. Mrs. Ruth H. Manchester was the organist.

American Legion past commanders present, were Albert Greenlaw, Augusta; Justice Belliveau, Rumford; John F. Choate, Winslow; L. Smith Dunneck, and Frank E. Southard, Augusta; William E. Southard, Bangor; Frank E. Lowe, Harrison; Paul J. Julien, Waterville; Gerry Wade, Augusta; Peter A. Thaanum, Winthrop; Alexander A. LaFleur, Portland; Lester C. Blake, Yarmouth; James V. Day, Kennebunk; Edward J. Quinn, Portland.

Department officers of the American Legion present were Ralph M. Merrow, Newport, com-

mander; Peter A. Thaanum, Winthrop, national executive committeeman; James V. Day, Kennebunk, national committeeman alternate; Norwood W. Mansur, Augusta, membership chairman; John Robertson, Lewiston, past department chaplain.

Forty and Eight officers included: Don Olquin, Lewiston, grand chef de gare and Archie Rouleau, Auburn, past grand correspondent.

Mrs. Beatrice M. Turcotte, Waterville, department treasurer, American Legion Auxiliary, represented the department president, Mrs. Leone Towle of Bangor, and the department secretary, Mrs. Isabelle Pinkham of Portland.

In addition to Company I, National Guard of Waterville, and its staff, there were several National Guard officers present, including Brig. General Lester Brown, Col. Edwin Haywood and Col. Elliott Goodwin, Augusta.

Several officials and representatives of the Maine Selective Service were present.

Legion Posts at Augusta, Oakland and Fairfield were present with their colors and guard, and there were Legionnaires from a number of communities, including Portland, Lewiston, Skowhegan, Rumford and other places.

Delegations from the Canadian Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Amvets, Daughters of the American Revolution, Martha's Washington Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, Masonic bodies and doctors also were present.

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to the respondent. He must, to escape conviction, prove his speed was reasonable and proper.

In the Rumford cases, this was done to the court's satisfaction.