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Tragic Death. 1920

The community was shocked and exceedingly saddened to learn of the tragic death of Fred C. Hartwell Monday morning. As he was readjusting a belt on the machinery at his sawmill his coat was caught and he called to men on the floor above to shut off the power. They complied with the request as soon as possible, but his body had been drawn into the shaft and was so injured in the remaining revolutions of the wheels that he lived but a few moments and his suffering was therefore of but short duration. The news of his accident and death cast a gloom over the community that cannot for some time be dispelled.

One of the largest funerals ever known in Littleton was held in the Unitarian church Wednesday afternoon, and also there was one of the most profuse and choicest displays of floral tributes, two features that bear unspeakable testimony to the place Mr. Hartwell held in the esteem of his friends.

The pastor, Rev. Carl G. Horst, spoke in no uncertain terms of the life and character of the deceased and his eloquent eulogy was endorsed and supplemented by Reverends Cleland and Caulkins of the Congregational and the Baptist churches. A very impressive feature of the service was the music, including organ selections by Mrs. Young, and the singing of "Peace, Sweet Peace" and "Softly, now the light of day" by Miss Hunt and Mrs. Bates.

In the family lot, not far from his home, Mr. Hartwell's body was laid to rest. Sixty-four years he lived to bless those whose lives he influenced, a period brief in time, but long when measured by service. He is survived by his wife and five children, Mrs. Hollis Robbins and Mrs. Harry Smith of Arlington, Edna Hartwell of Somerville, Warren, a student at Tufts, and George, who entered his new position in Boston Monday, also one granddaughter, Louise Smith, besides four brothers, J. Melvin and Charles A. Hartwell of Littleton, Frank of Somerville and Prof. Bert L. Hartwell of Kingston, R. I. A daughter, Annie, was killed in the Baker bridge railroad accident several years ago.

Mr. Hartwell was the son of the late Charles Pollard and Lucinda (Laws) Hartwell of this town. His education was obtained in the Littleton schools and practically all his life was spent

here, so that he is one of the best known as well as one of the most prominent of Littleton's citizens. Mr. Hartwell was married three times; first to Miss Louisa Whitcomb of Shirley, secondly to Miss Georgia Whitcomb of Stow, and eight years ago to Miss Alice Perry of Hillsboro, N. H.

For thirty-six years he has been engaged in sawing lumber, grinding grain and manufacturing boxes and barrels. In recent years his business activities have been attended by prosperity. Mr. Hartwell, like his father, was a natural stone-builder, and the splendid stone work in the foundation of his house and its ornamental pillars is a monument to his taste and skill in masonry. He spent some time in the cultivation of land, and for many years he was highway surveyor. Other town offices he filled creditably from time to time. He has been much occupied with his various interests, but not to the exclusion of neighborly kindness or the devotion of his family.

Mr. Hartwell was a staunch supporter of the Unitarian faith and was always present at church service and Sunday school. To all the organizations of the church he gave liberally of service and contributions. He was throughout a large part of his life a most faithful member of the church choir.

In social affairs he mingled with all his townspeople, making no distinction of class or sect. Being of a happy temperament he liked to have a good time and enjoyed making others happy. Hunting and fishing afforded him keen pleasure, and nothing suited him better than to get up a sleighride or a skating party, and then furnish whatever would contribute to the success of the occasion.

His pleasant home was synonymous with hospitality. He counted it a favor with Mrs. Hartwell to entertain their friends generously and frequently. The last family gathering in their home was on his birthday two weeks ago, attended by all but one of his children. Certainly he filled a large place in the home, the church, the town, in business activities and in society, and his memory is enshrined in the hearts of our people who lament his untimely death and sympathize with his family in the irreparable loss they have sustained.