

Orlando L. Davis, Civil war Veteran, 71 years a Mason, Dies at Old Home in Endwell

Health and sight gone, he was cared for by wife; Funeral Thursday

Endwell, June 25 - Orlando Luther Davis, aged 92, a veteran of the Civil War and a member of Watrous Post, 30, G.A.R. of Binghamton, died at his home at Endwell, on the main highway just west of Hooper Corners, yesterday at 11:30 o'clock after being in a state of coma about a week. He had been in failing health and nearly blind for several months.

Born in the Town of Union, he spent here most of his life and had a very large number of friends and acquaintances. Of strong constitution, he retained in remarkable degree his energy and facilities, but about a year ago his eyesight failed, and for some time before his death he was practically blind.

In his later years he was wont to invite to his home fellow Civil War veterans on the occasion of his birthdays, which were celebrated with memorable dinners and delightful exchange of reminiscences. His last birthday party, held last February, was attended by Conrades from Whittletsey Post- Smith La Baron, Abram Depue, Charles F. Remmele and Harrison Zimmer. Soon afterward Mr. Davis failed rapidly, never to recover.

Mr. Davis survivors are his wife, Mrs. Della A. Davis; one son Fred J. Davis; one grandson, William O. Davis, all of Endwell, and one sister, Mrs. Joseph Sayre of Grays Crossing. The funeral will be held at the Travis funeral parlors, 117 Washington Avenue, Endicott, Thursday at 2 o'clock. Round Hill Lodge, 533, F. & A. M. will be in charge. The officiating clergyman will be the Rev. Delbert O. Colburn, pastor of the Endwell Methodist Episcopal church, Burial will be in Riverhurst cemetery, Endicott. There will be a guard of honor from Kalurah Temple, Nobles of the Mystic Shrine.

Mr. Davis took great pride in his Civil war record and in his record at Mason. Having become a Master Mason 71 years ago, he believed that his years in Masonry were unequaled by those of any other man in this section.

Orlando Luther Davis was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Luther Davis and was born on Feb. 19, 1838, on Oak Hill in the town of Union. Just north of what is now the village of Endicott. When five years old, he was taken by his parents to McKean county, PA., where he spent his boyhood and young manhood, growing up in pioneer conditions. It was on a farm that he developed the qualities which through the years commanded respect for him as a hard worker and a good citizen. "It was called a farm." Mr. Davis used to say, "but for a long time we lived in the woods." Soon after the Civil War young Davis and his parents moved back to the town of Union.

It was in June, 1859. that Mr. Davis became a Master Mason, at Bradford, Pa. He lived at that time 12 miles from Bradford, and he walked that distance through the woods to take each of the degrees. He became a member of Round Hill Lodge, in Union, late in 1865. At the time of his death he was a member also of Binghamton Chapter, 139, Royal Arch Masons; Malta Commander, 21, Knights Templars, of Binghamton, and Kalurah Temple, Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, of Binghamton.

Young Davis enlisted for service in the Civil War on July 18, 1861, at Titusville, Pa., in Company H, Tenth Pennsylvania Reserve infantry; he was mustered into the service at Washington, July 20, 1861. Later he was transferred to the Signal Corps and served to the end of the war. His honorable discharge, dated July 3, 1865, shows that among the engagements in which he participated were Dranesville, Mechanicsville, Second Bull Run, South Mountain, Fredericksburg and Gettysburg. He was captured near Stevensville, Va., March 8, 1864, on the occasion of Kilpatrick's raid on Richmond. For three months he was in Libby prison



and for 11 months in Andersonville. On the wall of the living room in the Davis home at Endwell, there hangs an immense design of Andersonville showing among hundreds of details the historic stockade and the polluted brook that brought death to many Northern men.

After the war, Mr. Davis lived for a time on a farm near the present easterly limit of Endicott and in the vicinity of the present plant of the Endicott Forging and Manufacturing Co. He soon moved, to remain for the rest of his life, to the farm at Endwell, which was his father's and a good deal of which he sold as building lots and acre plots. He gave the site of the fire station at Endwell, and the volunteer fire company there bears his name.

Mr. Davis' first wife died many years ago. He married the wife who survives him July 8, 1917. She was Mrs. Delia A. Herman and had been his nurse and housekeeper since June 18, 1923. It was she who made his last years comfortable and pleasant. Helpless and blind he was for months before his death, and Mrs. Davis cared for him as a mother for a babe.