

Bethinking of Old Orleans

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C. ROYCE SAWYER 1871-1924

C. Royce Sawyer was the son of George F. Sawyer and Elizabeth H. Royce who were married in 1866. George Sawyer, a native of this county spent several years in the naval service and later was an Albion merchant. His son, Charles Royce Sawyer, grew up locally and became identified with numerous public affairs, holding office in many organizations. He was associated with the Citizens National Bank for thirty-five years where he held the title of cashier. He was married to Fannie Moore Sawyer and they had three children: C.R. Sawyer, Jr., John M. Sawyer and Elizabeth Sawyer (Mrs. Rexford Briggs). Their family home which was located on South Main Street in Albion, later became Maple Manor and was eventually torn down. This site is now used by Burger King Restaurant.

At the time of Mr. Sawyer's death he was Chief of the Albion Fire Department. Our photo presented here, shows him in the firemen's uniform. During his thirteen years as fire chief, the fire department was entirely motorized through his efforts. He was a member of the Dye Hose Co. for over thirty years and rarely missed a fire, day or night.

Mr. Sawyer was also credited with being one of the best-informed officers on military affairs in this part of the State. He attended the Plattsburg officers' military training camp and when World War I broke out, entered the service with the rank of Captain. At the close of the war, he was promoted to Major. Later he was further promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and at the time of his death, was an officer of the U.S. Army Reserve.

In politics, Royce Sawyer was an active leader in the Republican Party, often serving as a delegate in State Conventions. From 1906 to 1911 he was Orleans County Treasurer, having been elected to three consecutive terms.

At the time of his death he was a Vestryman of Christ Episcopal Church, Treasurer of Mt. Albion Cemetery Association, Treasurer of the Dye Hose Co., a director of the Albion Cold Storage Co., a director of the Growers Cold Storage Co. at Waterport, and Chairman of the Board of Sewer Commissioners of the Village of Albion.

Mr. Sawyer also had served several years as a village trustee and treasurer of the Western N.Y. Volunteer Fireman's Association. He was also a member of the Genesee Valley Club of Rochester,



Renovation Lodge F & AM, Orleans Chapter No. 75 Royal Arch Masons, the Monroe Commandery and Rochester Consistory (32nd degree Masons). He was a member of Albion Lodge 1006 B.P.O. ELks and also Lodge No. 58 of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

Mr. Sawyer was known to many for his kind deeds which were often unknown to others. Indeed, his accomplishments were numerous. In 1902 he established an award known as the C. Royce Sawyer Prize, to be given for the highest scholarship in Commercial subjects at Albion High School. The prize has since been continued through the years by his family. Therefore, the name C. Royce Sawyer is still being carried on when various prizes are awarded to graduating Seniors in Albion High School.

*"...I have not concealed Thy loving kindness and Thy truth from the great assembly."
Psalm 40:10*