

Bethinking of Old Orleans

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HARRY E. WELLMAN 1865-1932

"Man, unlike any other thing organic or inorganic in the universe, grows beyond his work, walks up the stairs of his concepts, emerges ahead of his accomplishments."

John Steinbeck

Harry E. Wellman was born May 2, 1865, the son of Irving and Jane Elwell Wellman of Kendall. The Wellman family were among the early settlers in Kendall arriving in 1819. Harry Wellman grew up on the farm homestead and received his early education in the common schools. He later attended Brockport Normal and Rochester Business Institute. Upon graduation, Mr. Wellman taught for a short time in local school districts.

In December 1886 he married Miss Carrie Townsend and they went to live on the family farm. He and his father Irving Wellman, worked two farms together until the latter's death. They maintained a large acreage of fruit orchards including apples and peaches, but were also producers of cabbage and potatoes.

Mr. Wellman took a wholehearted interest in the advancement of rural agricultural methods. He was one of the original members of the Farm Bureau of the county and at one time president of the N.Y.S. Horticultural Society. He was president of the Kendall Cold Storage Company from its beginning in 1915 until his death. He was also vice-president of the Orleans County Farmers Mutual Insurance Co. and Master of the Morton Grange.

In 1929 he received the distinguished honor of Master farmer which was presented to him at the time by Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Mr. Wellman was in many community affairs outside of farming interests. During World War I he took an active part in Red Cross work and Liberty Loan drives. He was at the time of his death, vice president of the executive committee of the Monroe-Orleans Boy Scout area. He also served as a director of the State Exchange Bank of Holley. For several years Mr. Wellman was president of the Kendall School board of education.

Likewise, he was committed to his church and served as a trustee of the Kendall Methodist Church. He was a member of Social Lodge F and AM and also a member of Golden Harvest Lodge 573 I.O.G.T. where he served as Deputy. This was the International Order of Grand Templars which



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met in the former Presbyterian Church in Kendall. Mr. Wellman achieved the status of Grand Templar in the State Organization during the late 1920's. This organization was at the time, a powerful World-wide Temperance Order founded in Syracuse in 1852. There were once several lodges of this Order throughout Orleans County. The mission was "to do all in its power to prohibit the manufacture and sale of all intoxicating beverages."

Indeed, Mr. Wellman had many accomplishments to his name. At the time of his death he was survived by his wife Carrie and two daughters, Mrs. Fred Stevens and Mrs. Howard Burt, both of Kendall.

"Wine is a mocker, strong drink is a brawler; and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise."

Proverbs 20:1