

Bethinking of Old Orleans

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WARNER THOMPSON 1867-1929



Warner Thompson Attorney at his desk. 1899.

"All is well with him who is beloved by his neighbors."

-- George Herbert

Warner Thompson was born in Albion, the son of Irving M. Thompson and Melissa M. Warner in 1867. He was admitted to the bar in 1893 and joined the firm of Thompson and Sons with his father and Brother Frederick in 1896. Our photo shows Warner Thompson at his desk in their law office in 1899. These offices were located on the second floor of the Royce Block in downtown Albion at the Southeast corner of Main and Bank Streets.. This firm and law offices were eventually taken over by the late Hamilton Doherty.

Note here, the basic office apparatus of 1899; a swivel spindle back chair, a rolltop desk with innumerable pigeon holes, an electric light hanging down on its own wiring and folding shutters at the windows. It works for me! In fact, his desk looks as cluttered as mine. It's interesting that there is no evidence of a typewriter or even a telephone in the photo. Oh for when life was so simple!

Warner Thompson's death notice stated: "His charming manner and the kindly and friendly interest he took in the concerns of his fellows, especially in their troubles, endearing him to all who knew him." He was very active in many community affairs and organizations. He was the Village of Albion Attorney and a Republic State Committeeman for Orleans County at the time of his death on August 1929.

He was a member and Past master of Renovation Lodge NO. 97 of Free and Accepted Mason and

Past High Priest of Orleans Chapter No. 175 of Albion and a member of the Alpha Omega Masonic Council of Medina. He was Past District Deputy of the Niagara Orleans Council of Medina. He was Past District Deputy of the Niagara Orleans Masonic District and Senior Master of Ceremonies of Grand Lodge of the State of New York. Mr. Thompson was also an active member of Albion Lodge No. 58 I.O.O.F.

When the local Elks Lodge No. 1006 was formed, Warner Thompson was among the charter members and became the first Exalted Ruler of the order.

He was also a charter member of the Dye Hose Company Inc., a trustee of Swan Library, a Director of the Citizen's National Bank and a commissioner and treasurer of Mt. Albion Cemetery. A life long member of Christ Episcopal Church, he served as Senior Warden of the congregation for many years. To say he was involved in community affairs, is almost an understatement. A local paper stated: "He was valued as a friend by all who came in contact with him, which means almost everyone in this village."

At the Time of his death, He was survived by his wife Helen Fox Thompson, his brother Frederic M. Thompson, Sr., a sister Edith Taylor, two nephews, Frederick M. Thompson, Jr. also an attorney and Austin Fox of Buffalo known in the recent past as an author who concentrated on regional architectural history.

Warner and Helen Thompson lived for many years at 11 Platt Street in the house later owned by Dr. John Ellis and now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. John Gavenda.