

9-18-08

Thompson (1867-1929): active in community

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 officers were eventually taken over by the late Hamilton Doherty.

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 Republican State Committeeman for Orleans County at the time of his death in August 1929.

He was a member and Past Master of Renovation Lodge No. 97 Free and Accepted Masons. He was also a Royal Arch 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.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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

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. Thompson was also an active member of Albion Lodge No. 58 I.O.O.F. When the local Elks Lodge No. 1006 was formed,

treasurer of Mt. Albion Cemetery. A lifelong 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 and 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 29 Platt Street in the house now occupied by Attorney John Gavenda for his law office.

Most recently the Cobblestone Society has been given several pieces of very fine quality Victorian furniture of the 1860s and 1870s that were once in the home of Helen and Warner

Thompson. These furnishings have been donated by the three daughters of Austin Fox, who felt they should be a lasting part of our community heritage in a museum setting.

C. W. Lattin
Orleans County historian.