

Life Sketch of Charles A. Winslow

Herewith is presented a life sketch of former Mayor Charles A. Winslow, who died Saturday in the Madonna home of the Mercy hospital at the age of 97.

By JOHN PEPP

Staff Writer of The Times

Mayor of Watertown throughout the duration of World War II, as well as during the years just prior to and immediately after the war, Mr. Winslow headed the city government through one of the most trying times in history. His tenure included all of that critical period of war-time shortages of material and manpower, of drastic rationing of vital necessities and other, war-imposed restrictions.

Aside from his service as the city's chief magistrate for eight years and his business affiliations, the scope of Mr. Winslow's activities embraced various fields. His public service included 15 years as chairman of the Thousand Islands State Parks commission. He had been prominent as a singer and choral and choir director; was president of the chamber of commerce for two terms and president of the Rotary club for one term; was chairman of the Jefferson county war council during World War II and was an active participant in movements designed to bring new industries to Watertown.

Charles A. Winslow was born in Utica July 13, 1871, one of nine children of the late Charles and Jane Leahy Winslow.

The future mayor of Watertown spent his boyhood in Utica, where he was educated in Assumption academy. He learned the plumber's trade and followed that for two years, after which he went to New York city and studied voice under Paola Giorza for four years.

Begins Career

Upon his return to Utica, Mr. Winslow began his business career with the Utica Brewing company. In 1895 he came to Watertown with his brother, Frank, to supervise the equipping of the Watertown Brewing company plant, of which Frank was one of the principal organizers.

Later, Mr. Winslow left the brewing business and for a time was employed as night clerk at the old Hardiman hotel and the old Otis house. In January, 1901, he was employed by the New York Central railroad, serving in the freight office, then situated at the foot of Public Square.

In 1902 he became an employee of the late Horace E. Tyler, lower court street coal dealer, and remained with him for ten years until 1912, when he entered the trucking, storage warehousing and coal business for himself at the old Watertown Milk company station at 436 Court street. The business was known as the Winslow Trucking company. Two years later—in June, 1914—the plant was destroyed by fire.

Associated in business with Mr. Winslow at the time was Edward L. (Ned) Day and the business became known as the Winslow-Day Company, Inc., with Mr. Winslow as the president and general manager. Following the disastrous fire of 1914, the firm erected the present fireproof warehouse plant at 588 Morrison street, now used by the Marcy-Buck & Schuyler, Inc.

In March, 1920, Mr. Winslow purchased the interest of Mr. Day in the business, the latter retiring, and the business was again designated as the Winslow Trucking company, with Mr. Winslow as president and treasurer. A pioneer in the transport busi-

ness, Mr. Winslow was among the first to have trucks for hire in Watertown. Mr. Winslow continued the Winslow Trucking company at the Morrison street location until September, 1930, when the business was merged with the Marcy-Buck Company, Inc., to form the Marcy-Buck & Winslow Company, Inc., for years one of the largest dealers in solid fuels north of the main line of the New York Central railroad. In the new company Mr. Winslow became a vice president and director.

Also absorbed in the merger—a consolidation of three of the largest retail coal companies of the Watertown area and two of the most important trucking and storage concerns in this section—was the coal, wood, warehouse, storage and trucking business of the former H. E. Tyler company, then owned by Harold L. Bisnett and John T. Waite.

Mr. Winslow was placed in charge of the warehousing and trucking department of the company, which, in addition to the fuel business, now had the only large warehousing facilities north of Syracuse, carried on extensive motor transportation operations and served as the Watertown agents of the Mayflower Interstate Trucking company.

Elected President

President of the Marcy-Buck & Winslow company back in 1930 was the late Richard M. Buck, whose father, the late Robert J. Buck, was chairman of the board. James H. Davison and Mr. Winslow were the vice presidents. Following Richard Buck's death March 3, 1931, his father succeeded him as president and he served in that capacity until Jan. 15, 1938, when he resigned to set up an independent coal company, at which time Mr. Winslow was elected president of the Marcy-Buck & Winslow company, R. J. Buck again becoming the board chairman.

On July 1, 1935, the main offices were moved from Mill street to the former Tyler company offices in lower Court street and on April 12, 1938, the capital structure was changed. On April 20, 1939, there followed the reorganization whereby John L. Schuyler, now dead, was elected president to succeed Mr. Winslow, who was then made chairman of the board to replace R. J. Buck, who had resigned.

Mr. Winslow remained active with the corporation as chairman of the board until April 11, 1944, when he disposed of his interest in the stock—and retired from business. Mr. Winslow's stock was purchased by Daniel B. Schuyler and Kent S. McKinley, who took over control of the company following the death May 24, 1944, of Mr. Schuyler's son, John L., D. B. Schuyler becoming president and treasurer July 11, 1944, and Mr. McKinley executive vice president Aug. 8, 1944. Effective Dec. 30, 1944, the name of the company was changed to Marcy-Buck & Schuyler, Inc.

His connection with the Marcy-Buck & Winslow company as director and officer, as well as stockholder, having terminated with the sale of his holdings to Mr. Schuyler and Mr. McKinley, Mr. Winslow became associated with the New York Air Brake company in June, 1944, as public relations director. He remained with the Air Brake company for 18 months, resigning Jan. 1, 1946, and devoting himself to his duties as mayor of the city. His resignation from the Air Brake

company position at the age of 74 marked his retirement from active business life.

Not until he decided to run for mayor in August, 1939, in opposition to former Mayor John B. Harris, then a city councilman, did Mr. Winslow first become conspicuous in politics. A lively municipal campaign, in which the controversial issue of home lighting figured prominently, was waged between the Winslow and Harris forces, climaxing Nov. 7, 1939, in defeat for Mr. Harris in one of the closest elections in years. The new mayor succeeded the late Mayor David D. Kleff, who was not a candidate for reelection.

Inaugurated mayor Jan. 1, 1940, Mr. Winslow headed a new council which included William T. Field, a new member succeeding Harry C. Kinne, who had declined to become a candidate for reelection as city councilman; John H. Newman, who had been reelected; and Mr. Harris and Levi Carpenter, who began the last two years of their terms.

Two days after taking office, Mr. Winslow had the sudden experience of having to officiate as the acting city manager as well as mayor, for on Jan. 3 Paul B. Sutton, who was the city manager, died.

Seeking reelection on the basis of his four-year wartime record, Mr. Winslow announced his candidacy May 12, 1943, and was the only designated candidate for the mayoralty nomination until primary day, Aug. 10, when, through write-in campaigns, the names of two opponents appeared on the ballots, former City Councilman James J. Weldon and Corwin T. Jewell, then city councilman. Mr. Jewell finished third in the primary voting and therefore, under the non-partisan law, was eliminated from the race, leaving Mr. Winslow and Mr. Weldon to oppose one another for the election. On election day, Nov. 2, Mr. Winslow won handsily over the former city councilman and alderman, defeating Mr. Weldon by a majority of 514.

Mr. Winslow's associates on the council when he began his second term of office as head of the city government on Jan. 1, 1944, were: William W. Waddingham, Corwin T. Jewell, Hiram S. Arthur and William J. Flynn, the latter a new member of the council.

Hot Contest

His formal announcement of candidacy for a third term was made April 9, 1947. Attorney Henry A. Hudson, now a justice of the New York state supreme court, had already publicly announced his candidacy and started an active campaign. There followed one of the "hottest" municipal contests in years, with Mr. Hudson emerging victorious over Mr. Winslow in the November election.

At the expiration of his term Dec. 31, 1947, Mr. Winslow retired from politics. One of the outstanding municipal achievements in which Mr. Winslow was vitally interested during his administration was the development of the Watertown airport. It was he who advocated a municipal airport commission, which was created to control airport operations.

Other major accomplishments were achieved under his administration. The public debt was reduced \$2,500,000 in seven years. In 1947 the outstanding municipal indebtedness was cut below \$1,000,000 for the first time in 42 years and the city's bonded debt limit stood at more than \$4,500,000.

The public housing authority, predecessor of the Watertown housing authority provided by state legislation, another municipal agency, was created by Mr. Winslow.

In addition to being mayor of the city, Mr. Winslow served in the important position of chairman of the Jefferson county war council during the World War II years and in that capacity was charged with the responsibility of directing the civilian war efforts of the county. He was appointed to the position by the governor of the state, then Herbert H. Lehman, under the state war emergency act. He also took an active part in the operation of the city's civilian protection program during the war emergency period.

Mr. Winslow was a charter member of the Thousand Islands State Parks commission, created in 1932 under a bill signed by Franklin D. Roosevelt, then governor of the state, and he served as chairman of the commission throughout the 15 years that he was a member of the group. Mr. Winslow was elected chairman of the commission when it held its organization meeting Sept. 17, 1932. He served three five-year terms on the commission, retiring Jan. 31, 1947.

For years a member of the chamber of commerce, Mr. Winslow served as its president for two terms, 1930 and 1931, being first elected Feb. 21, 1930, to succeed H. Clinton Sprague, whose term expired, and being reelected Feb. 9, 1931. With his designation as president, he automatically became chairman of the board of directors.

A member of the club since May, 1928, Mr. Winslow served as president of the Watertown Rotary club for the one-year term of 1933-34. He succeeded the late Dr. Norman L. Hawkins as president.

For years he was a director of the old Jefferson County National bank, now a part of the National Bank of Northern New York, having first been elected to the board on Jan. 9, 1934, at which time he succeeded Harvey R. Waite, then president of the Agricultural Insurance company.

Active in campaigns for community advancement, Mr. Winslow was in 1943 appointed chairman of the Jefferson county committee for economic development and in 1944 was chairman ex-officio of the mayor's municipal advisory commission. Both were designed chiefly to plan for the post-war days.

On Nov. 10, 1948, the former mayor appeared before a U.S. senate committee hearing in Washington, D.C., on the basing point decision and, on behalf of the Watertown chamber of commerce, testified on the effect of the elimination of the basing point system to Watertown and Jefferson county industries. He was then a member of the chamber of commerce legislative committee and had for six years been a member of a committee seeking to attract new industries to Watertown.

Received Honors

Among the honors conferred upon Mr. Winslow, especially during his eight years as mayor, was his appointment Dec. 17, 1954, to the chairmanship of the Watertown committee in the campaign to raise funds for a \$3,000,000 memorial hospital in New York city in honor of the late Gov. Alfred E. Smith. During his last year as mayor he was appointed an honorary vice chairman of the New York State Veterans of Foreign Wars organization. In 1940 he was honorary chairman of the American Bureau for Medical Aid to China, Inc., in the city of Watertown.

From the time he first became a resident of Watertown in 1895 and until recent years, Mr. Winslow had been one of the outstanding figures in the city's musical life. Gifted with a fine baritone voice, he had appeared a number of times in local productions of Gilbert & Sullivan operas and other home talent productions, for years had a reputation of being the best baritone in northern New York, once directed choirs of Watertown churches and in later years of his life was the musical director of the Watertown Male Chorus.

Mr. Winslow showed early promise of his singing talents, so in 1889, after his graduation from Utica schools, he went to New York and studied voice training under Paola Giorza for four years. While he was receiving his early musical training, he sang in the choirs of St. Agnes church of New York and in St. Augustine's church in St. Peter's church of



—Times Staff Photo

I.H.C. NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY—Initiated into the National Honor society at Immaculate Heart Central school in ceremonies Friday were, first row, from left: Mary Coppola, Marianne Palumbo, Mary Sutton, Karen Parker, Barbara Martin, Mary Ann Kelly and Sandra

LaMartina; second row, Nanci Austin, Sara Meyerdiereks, Martha Leavery, Laura Marsala, Richard La Casse, Philip Lyman and Jerry Collins; third row, William Bouchard, Michael Gaglia, John Yonkovig, Harold Hager, Richard Randall, Peter Miller, Patrick Knapp and Patrick Powers.

there became director of the choir of St. Francis de Sales church, serving in that capacity until he came to Watertown in 1895. Here he sang first in the choir of St. Patrick's church and until May, 1898, when he resigned, he was the choir director. Later, he became a member of the choir of the First Presbyterian church and was its baritone soloist for 21 years.

For two years he was the director of the choir of the First Methodist church when it was known as the Arsenal Street Methodist church, resigning that position in September, 1902, to accept a similar position with the St. Patrick's Choral society, the name under which the St. Patrick's church choir had just been organized. Later, Mr. Winslow was for years the choir director of the Holy Family church, becoming a member of the choir in 1927.

Dean of Vocalists

Dean of Watertown vocalists, Mr. Winslow was chosen musical director of the Watertown Male chorus when that organization was formed in November, 1929, and he conducted the chorus during the early years of its existence, eventually being succeeded by F. Lysle Schmid. Mr. Winslow once sang first bass in the chorus.

Mr. Winslow's distinctive voice delighted north country music lovers on many occasions. Performances he gave in the leading male role of Captain Corcoran in Gilbert & Sullivan's light opera, "H.M.S. Pinafore," are especially recalled. This part he played in a local presentation of "Pinafore" back in 1904 and he was the only member of that cast that was in the group that presented the opera March 23 and 24, 1933, at the South Junior High school for charity under the auspices of the Rotary and Kiwanis clubs. In addition to being in the cast, Mr. Winslow, then musical director of the Watertown Male chorus, directed the weeks of rehearsal of principals and chorus of the 1933 production with orchestra leader F. Lysle Schmid as conductor.

Back in 1904 the late Fred Seymour was the director for the "Pinafore" presentation with Mr. Winslow in the role of Captain Corcoran. Under Mr. Seymour's direction, Mr. Winslow also appeared as

principal in other Gilbert & Sullivan operas, including "Mikado" and "Pirates of Penzance." He sang in a number of local musical comedy productions, including "The Geisha" and "The Country Girl," participated in numerous other amateur productions; sang solo parts in oratorios, including Handel's "Messiah," Rossini's "Stabat Mater," Mendelssohn's "Elijah" and Debussy's "Prodigal Son," and sang in many cantatas, as well as numerous concerts given under the sponsorship of various churches and organizations. In 1930 he was chairman of the committee arranging for the May Music week.

Mr. Winslow married Miss Anna Fee, daughter of the late Michael and Bridget Plunkett Fee of this city, Oct. 30, 1900, the ceremony being performed at St. Patrick's church by the late Rev. Tobias Glenn, then pastor of the church. Both were prominent musically, singing in church choirs and in home talent productions, including Gilbert & Sullivan operas in which she was a soprano in the chorus and he sang the leading male roles.

Mr. and Mrs. Winslow resided at the old Fee family home in Willow street for a time following their marriage. Later, they lived at 179 Flower avenue east, moving in 1918 to 301 Flower avenue east. Mrs. Winslow died Dec. 13, 1943. The couple had no children.

Mr. Winslow was the last surviving charter member of Watertown Lodge, 496, B.P.O. E., and also the only surviving officer of the original group of 30 members who formed the Elks lodge in 1899. He was the first organizer of the lodge. At his death he was an honorary life member.

He was a former member and trustee of Holy Family church, member of Watertown council, 259, K. of C., Bishop Conroy General Assembly, Fourth Degree, K. of C., the Lincoln league and Black River Valley club. He had also been a member of the Jefferson County Golf club and the Crescent Yacht club of Chaumont. Fishing was one of his chief hobbies.

A former member of the National Warehousemen's association, Mr. Winslow once served as the president of the New York state district.

PHONE: 782-4000

STORE HOURS: 10-5 Daily, 10-9 Friday

FALL FASHION
JUBILEE

Fur Sale

VERY SPECIAL FALL VALUES!

Mink -- Persian Lamb
Buy Now SAVE!



ILLUSTRATED:
AUTUMN HAZE MINK \$1750

ONLY AT EMPSELL'S—	
Famous For Fashion—Quality—Value	
NATURAL MINK JACKETS	\$499
NATURAL MINK WALKING COATS	\$799
EL DORADO MINK STOLES	\$449
NATURAL MINK STOLES	\$229
NATURAL MINK BOAS	\$49
NATURAL MINK BUBBLE CAPES	\$399
BLACK DYED PERSIAN LAMB COATS	\$399
NATURAL GREY PERSIAN LAMB COATS	\$499
MINK TRIMMED AMERICAN PROCESSED BROADTAIL LAMB JACKETS	\$229

Furs Labeled to Show Country of Origin

The Largest Selection Of Quality Fashion Furs In Northern New York

CONVENIENT BUDGET TERMS

FURS—SECOND FLOOR

Empsall's

64 YEARS OF PRESCRIPTION SERVICE WORTHY OF YOUR CONFIDENCE

MEDICAID
WELFARE
COMPENSATION
PRESCRIPTIONS
WELCOME

free
PRESCRIPTION
DELIVERY
IN WATERTOWN

ALL STORES
OPEN SUNDAYS
TO SERVE YOU
BETTER

KINNEY
DRUGS

Midland
Credit Union