

George Thatcher Lord Biography

George Thatcher Lord was born in Portland, CT, in 1863. His family soon moved to the town of Colchester, where he grew up. George received his early education in the district schools of that town and graduated from Bacon Academy. He found work with the railroad service and for ten years served as agent for the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railway Co. In 1895, he took on a partner and went into the undertaker business. The company, Roadstrand & Lord, began operations in Norwich. On November 17, 1897, Mr. Lord bought out his partner's interest and became sole owner. When George Lord's firm began operating in Norwich, the undertaking business was already being conducted by old, well-established firms. Few people at the time thought he could succeed. But George possessed a friendly, easy manner which lent itself to creating a meaningful experience for his customers and their families. He introduced modern ideas and appliances that set his business apart from the competition. His business continued its rapid growth. It is this which emphasizes the success which has attended all Mr. Lord's efforts. In spite of the fact that he was obliged to make his own opportunities, he has reached the top of his profession, taking rank not only with the best in his locality but throughout the State. His personal reputation has undoubtedly contributed to the esteem he enjoys, especially among those in his own line, and he also holds an enviable social position. In June 1903, Mr. Lord was appointed by Gov. Chamberlain a member of the State Board of Examiners of Embalmers, which board was created by the Legislature of 1903, and in July 1903 Mr. Lord was elected president of the board.

Mr. Lord was married in Asbury Park, N.J., on November 17, 1892, to Miss Helena Thomas of Philadelphia, PA, daughter of Dr. Franklin R. Thomas, a noted physician of that city and the first to introduce the use of hydro oxygen in his practice. The doctor was also noted as a tenor singer, and his daughter, Mrs. Lord, inherited his musical ability and was well known as a vocalist. She received her musical education in New York. Mr. and Mrs. Lord had had three children, Ruth Jeanette, Franklin Thatcher, and Lucile Otis.

Fraternally, Mr. Lord was a thirty-second degree Mason holding membership in St. James Lodge No. 23 Free & Accepted Mason, in which he has held offices, and in Sphinx Temple Mystic Shrine at Hartford. He is a member of Gardner Lodge No. 12 AOUW, the Royal Arcanum, and the Arcanum Club, the Sons of the American Revolution, and the Sons of Veterans. His political support is given to the Republican Party, but he does not take much active interest in public affairs, although while in Hebron he served as justice of the peace and grand juror. He and his wife are communicants of Christ Episcopal Church.

GEORGE T LORD, the leading undertaker of Norwich, exemplified the possibilities open to a young man of energy and enterprise when those qualities supplement a thorough knowledge of the line of work he has chosen and the ability not only to act upon but to suggest new ideas. If he saw a want he must be ready to supply it. In these days of sharp competition all a man's faculties must be alive if he is to succeed. It is not sufficient as it was a generation or so ago for him to be a good workman and that alone. He must have the executive ability to push his enterprises to profitable completion and tact and courtesy in dealing with his patrons and associates in business. That Mr. Lord possessed all these qualities in generous measure he has proved conclusively by the high position he has attained in so brief a span of time.

He was a resident of Norwich only eight years and came here to enter business life without any of the extraneous aids to fortune enjoyed by many young men. Position, influential friends, solid commercial standing all these he was obliged to win for himself as he made his way, but they were not made an object it came rather the recognition of effort wisely directed and appreciated.

OBITUARY.

George Thatcher Lord.

After a long illness with a complication of diseases that had made him an invalid for nearly the past 18 months, but had only been recognized as serious since early in September, the death of George Thatcher Lord occurred on Friday morning, at 2.30 o'clock. He was 82 years old and was born in Portland, Conn.

On both his father's and his mother's side he traced back to colonial ancestry, whose members played an important part in the early life of this state and nation. His first Amer-



GEORGE THATCHER LORD

ican ancestor on his father's side was Thomas Lord, who came from England and was one of the earliest settlers of Hartford.

Mr. Lord's great-grandfather, George Lord, was a farmer and large land owner in the town of Marlborough, Hartford county. Noble Everett Lord was the grandfather of George T. Lord. He was born in 1804 in Marlborough and after his marriage removed to Hebron, where he lived until the time of his death. His father was Joshua B. Lord, who was born in Hebron, served in the Civil war and then returned to Hartford, where he carried on the undertaking business for a number of years and died in that city in 1874.

George T. Lord was the third child in the family of Joshua B. Lord and Eunice Otis, his mother being a native of Colchester, and a sister of the late Deacon A. T. Otis of this city. On his maternal side Mr. Lord was a direct descendant of John Otis, who came from Hingham, England, and with other settlers founded Hingham, Mass., in 1638, founding also in this county the family which produced James Otis the revolutionary statesman, who was born at Barnstable, Mass., Feb. 2, 1724. In 1781 James Otis was elected to the legislature of Massachusetts and from that moment he was one of the leaders in the discussion and development of opinion which preceded the Revolutionary

While Mr. Lord was only an infant his parents removed to Colchester and he received his early education in the district schools of that town, and graduated from Bacon Academy. He then entered the railroad service, and for 16 years served as agent for the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad company at Colchester and Turgerville. Resigning his position at Turgerville he came to Norwich in 1895, in company with R. J. Roadstrand, with whom he established an undertaking business under the firm name of Roadstrand & Lord. On Nov. 17, 1895, Mr. Lord purchased his partner's interest and became sole owner. The entrance of Mr. Lord into the undertaking business in this city revolutionized the business here as he introduced the most modern methods and facilities and rapidly built up a prosperous business which was a tribute to the ability, tact and courtesy that distinguished the members of the firm.

For years he was one of the leading undertakers here and in 1907 sold out to Church and Allen, who have since conducted the business. Since disposing of his business, Mr. Lord has been the Eastern representative of the Durfee Mfg. Co., having the territory from Maine to Tennessee.

In June, 1903, Mr. Lord was appointed by Governor Chamberlain, a member of the state board of examiners of embalmers, which board was created by the legislature of 1903, and in July of that year he was elected president of the board, being its first presiding officer and holding the position for three years. Mr. Lord held license No. 1, issued by the board for licensed embalmers in the state of Connecticut.

Fraternally Mr. Lord was a 32d degree Mason, being raised in St. James lodge, No. 23, F. and A. M., in which he had held office in Franklin chapter, Council, Columbian Commandery, No. 4, K. T., and in the Consistory. He was a member of Sphinx Temple of the Mystic Shrine of Hartford, Norwich lodge, No. 248, New England Order of Protection, Norwich Council, No. 720, Royal Arcanum, Sons of the American Revolution and the Sons of Veterans.

He was a republican in politics, but had never taken any particularly active part in public affairs, although while residing in Hebron he served as justice of the peace and grand juror. He was a communicant of Christ Episcopal church.

Mr. Lord was married in Asbury Park, N. J., Nov. 17, 1892, to Miss Helena Thomas of Philadelphia, Pa., daughter of Dr. Franklin R. Thomas, a noted physician of that city and the first to introduce the use of hydro-oxygen in his practice. Mrs. Lord survives her husband, with their three children, Mrs. Edward Brown Coy of Westley, R. I., Franklin Thatcher Lord, a student at the New York Military academy, Cornwall-on-the-Hudson, and Miss Lucille Otis Lord, living at home, No. 53 Washington street. There are also surviving two sisters, Mrs. Charles James Fox of Hartford and Mrs. William Ball of Bristol, Conn.