

Erie Foreman Dies

Frank E. Gettel, Erie foreman at Uniondale, died there recently. He was 54 and is survived by his widow and five sisters, Mrs. William Burman, Mrs. Daniel Drum, Mrs. John Boulter, Mrs. Robert Bailey and Mrs. Walter White and a brother, Jasper, all of Uniondale.

Fired Early Erie Engine

William H. Green, veteran of earlier days on the Erie who fired the engine on the first passenger train from Rochester to Salamanca in 1879 and was engineer of the first locomotive on the Bradford branch died last month at Long Beach, Calif. He was 77.

Mr. Green had been in Erie service 49 years.

Veteran Fireman Gone

Squire N. Savage, 72, former fireman on the Erie's Alleghany Division, died in July at Hornell. Besides his widow, he is survived by three sons, Louis A., and Carl, of Hornell and Charles H., of Rochester.

Mr. Savage was born in Troupsburg but had lived in Hornell seventeen years. Funeral services were held from the home of his son.

September, 1931

DEATHS IN ERIE FAMILY

Captain Henry J. Howard

The death of Captain Henry Joseph Howard of the Erie's Chicago River service last July removes a familiar figure from the waterfront of the western metropolis and one who made many friends for the railroad. He worked until four days before his death. Captain Howard navigated the wind-



Captain Henry J. Howard

ing Chicago river with its many hazards to life and property with great skill. He piloted his tug with the cumbersome car floats for many years without mishap and once saved a boatload of boys from swamping by running into the piling at the river's edge. He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Nellie Howard and a son, Joseph.

Patrick J. Donovan

Patrick J. Donovan, retired B. & S. W., engineer, died last July at his home, 46 Goulding avenue, Buffalo. He was a member of the Erie veterans association and widely known.

Joseph R. Crawford

Joseph R. Crawford, 39, who was forced to retire on account of ill health as Erie agent at Canaseraga a few years ago, died last month in the Masonic Home at Utica. He began as a clerk at Castile, became agent at Rock Glen, file clerk at Buffalo and later agent at Lancaster, Attica and Canaseraga. Besides his mother, he is survived by his widow who was Miss Clara J. Warren of Castile, and six children.

William H. Seeschaef

William H. Seeschaef, steamship passenger agent for the Erie at New York since 1920, died in Brooklyn hospital last July following an operation. He began with the Erie in 1899 at Hoboken. He was 48. The Hoboken Elks conducted the services at his home, 1673 68th street, Brooklyn, and burial was in Mt. Olivet cemetery.

True J. Murphy

True J. Murphy, widely known as Erie ticket agent at Elmira a quarter of a century ago, died last July at his summer home near Morris, Pa. He was 73 and was born in Ridgebury, Bradford county, Pa., five miles south of Wellsburg, N. Y., on the Susquehanna division. Many of the pioneers who settled in Ridgebury and cleared the land were Irish who later made their mark in the railroad game.

John Whitesell

John Whitesell, 70, for 30 years baggagemaster at the 4th Avenue station of the Erie in Newark, died recently at his home, 251 Clinton avenue. Mr. Whitesell always prided himself in his neat appearing quarters. A handy man with tools he often made repairs without cost to the company. He is survived by his widow and three sons, C. J., W. M. and Fred A. Whitesell; two daughters, Miss Dorothy Whitesell and Mrs. R. E. Peoples; two brothers, Ellsworth and George Whitesell and a sister, Mrs. Elizabeth Albert. Burial was in Hackettstown.

Bird W. Spencer

Brigadier General Bird W. Spencer, inspector general of rifle practice of New Jersey, who began as an office boy with the Erie and later became treasurer of the railroad before he was 30, died last July of a heart attack in the clubhouse of the state military camp at Seagirt. He was 83.

Harry E. Wells

Harry E. Wells, 61, retired Erie flagman and 32nd degree Mason, died in Marion last month. He is survived by his widow and six sisters, Mrs. Ruby Kerns, Mrs. Grace Cloy, Mrs. Bessie Krider, Miss Alice Wells, Mrs. Maude Hamlin and Mrs. May Bass.