

ARTIST AND PROMINENT CITIZEN DIES SUDDENLY

Frederick C. Gordon Stricken With Heart Disease in His Studio—Of a Retiring Disposition.

The sudden death of Frederick C. Gordon on Thursday of last week came as a great shock to his many friends and acquaintances in Westfield and vicinity, for he was in the post office, where he was accustomed to call for his mail daily, about 8:30 Thursday morning and chatted in his usual cheery manner with at least two of his friends.

He then returned to his studio home at High Orchard, Mountainside, riding his bicycle as usual and was seen walking up the hill on which his studio is located, apparently in his usual good health, except that he paused once or twice in his climb, which was not his habit.

About 1 o'clock in the afternoon Caroline Peddle Ball, an artist friend of many years standing, called at Mr. Gordon's studio, and receiving no response to her knocking entered and found her friend lying on his couch fully dressed and apparently lifeless.

Doctor Decker was called and responding instantly arrived at the studio by 1:20 and pronounced that life had been extinct for some little time. Apparently Mr. Gordon had been able to remove his outer clothing and put it away and had begun looking over his mail, for one letter had been opened. Doubtless the heart attack which caused his death had come on with sufficient warning to enable him to reach his couch.

Dr. Westcott, the county physician, gave permission for the removal of the remains and funeral services were held in St. Paul's Church on Saturday afternoon at 3 o'clock, when the Rev. James A. Smith read the service. Mrs. Robert W. Harden, a friend of Mr. Gordon for several

friend of Mr. Gordon for several years, played the organ and interment was made in Fairview Cemetery immediately following the service.

Born at Cobourg, Ontario, Canada, June 30, 1856, Mr. Gordon was educated in the public and high schools of the Dominion and was so determined to make art his life work that his father sent him to Paris, where he studied at the Julien and the Colrossi Academies for some time and returned to Canada to take up the teaching of art in Brockville, in which place he also established an art school.

In 1886 Mr. Gordon succumbed to the lure of New York and resumed his studies there at the Art Students League, and during the time of his residence in that city occupied a studio on 23d street, which at that time was a favorite gathering place for all artists.

In 1908 Mr. Gordon came to Westfield and resided on Mountain avenue until his studio, on a commanding prominence in Mountainside, was completed, when he removed there and had been a power for good in the community until his death. In 1909 Mr. Gordon was elected a member of the Borough Council, serving until he was elected Mayor in 1916, which office he held until January 1, 1921.

Much of Mr. Gordon's best work was done in the line of decorative drawings for the Century Magazine and he was considered by the management of that magazine when, under the guidance of Richard Watson Gilder, it reached the pinnacle of its fame, as the leading artist of his class in the United States. There remains also a series of cover designs for The Outlook, which still holds a high place in the artistic world.

Among others Mr. Gordon numbered among his personal friends, Bryson Burroughs, curator of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

When the Art Association was organized in Westfield, Mr. Gordon took a great interest in it and helped to arrange the room at the Public

to arrange the room at the Public Library now occupied by the association, in fact the lighting arrangements were designed and partly installed by him. And for the past year Mr. Gordon served as a most active president of the association.

This new contact seemed to inspire him to new work in color and many very fine things in oil have been done in the past year or two.

There was an unusual combination of practical ingenuity and art in the brain and fingers of this unusual man and at least two inventions stand to his credit and during the past two months plans for a new type of automobile license plate had been formulating and were so far advanced that complete drawings exist so it is possible that they may be completed and patent rights applied for.

The pall bearers were selected from the men who had been associated with Mr. Gordon in his art work and civic activities and his interest in young men was fittingly remembered in the selection of Messrs. John Platt, Jr., and his two brothers, Robert and Hugh, all of whom had known Mr. Gordon since childhood. Messrs. Lloyd Thompson and Robert Coles, who had been intimately connected with the civic activities of Mr. Gordon, and Messrs. J. T. Tubby Jr., and E. O. Merrill of the Art Association.

There are several members of Mr. Gordon's family at present living in Canada and Mrs. Kate Crowle of Toronto, a sister, attended the funeral services. Others of the family are Mrs. James Grey, a sister, and J. Wilnot Gordon, Arthur Gordon and Dwight Gordon, brothers, all residing in Toronto.

Modest and of a retiring disposition few were permitted to know the fine mind, beautiful spirit and staunch friendship of this good citizen who has gone to his last reward. But those who came within the sphere of his influence will bear through life the imprint of a contact with a great man.