

P. P. Wells Lawyer And Teacher Dies

Former Resident of Middletown Noted For Legal Papers and Conservation Work

Middletown, March 13.—(Special.)—Philip Patterson Wells, a resident of this city for many years, died Tuesday in San Francisco. Mr. Wells, who was a lawyer and long noted for his ability as teacher and writer, leaves his wife, a son, Lewis G. Wells of Albany, and a daughter, Miss Elizabeth Wells, of Rosso, Cal. Funeral arrangements are incomplete.

Teacher at Yale.

Mr. Wells was born in Grand Rapids, Mich. He was educated at Yale University, and attended the Yale Graduate School, and Yale Law School. In 1893, he was admitted to the Connecticut Bar, three years afterward taking the post of librarian in Yale Law School and acting as instructor for a year in the same school.

From 1902 until 1906, he was history lecturer at Yale and following that became chief law expert for the U. S. Forest Service, with which he was previously identified as law expert. From 1911 until 1913, he was chief officer in law for the U. S. Reclamation Service, and also acted as counsel for the National Conservation Association.

Fraternally, he was a member of the American Political Science Association, Middlesex County Historical Society, Society of American Foresters, the Cosmos, Washington, and the Graduates and Elihu at New Haven. For some years he was president of the Connecticut Forestry Association.

Authority on Conservation.

He was an author of papers on conservation of natural resources and on legal subjects in encyclopedias and periodicals. In addition he was a joint author in the writing of "Annotated Titles of Books on English and American History"; "Colonies of the World," by E. J. Paine and was a joint editor of the "Young Folks Library" and the A. L. A. Catalogue in 1903 and 1904.

For many years Mr. Wells was an intimate friend of Former Governor Gifford Pinchot of Pennsylvania and served as his personal advisor, holding the office of deputy attorney general for Pennsylvania for some years. During his years as counsel for the Forestry Association and the National Conservation Association he worked hard to secure the passage of legislation aiding in the conservation of natural resources and was importantly identified in the drawing and passage of the Federal water power bill and mineral leasing laws, which did much to end forest devastation in the country.