

AUGUSTUS VAN WYCK, JURIST, DIES AT 71

Ex-Supreme Court Justice's Death Follows a Second Operation in Hospital.

Augustus Van Wyck, former Supreme Court Justice and Democratic candidate for Governor in 1898, died yesterday morning in the Hahnemann Hospital following an operation performed Wednesday for an intestinal ailment. He had previously been operated on April 24, at short notice, and for a time thereafter his condition gave hope of recovery. At the bedside yesterday were his daughter, Mrs. Leila Osborne, widow of James W. Osborne, and his son, William.

He was born in this city Oct. 14, 1850, a son of William Van Wyck, and a descendant in the seventh generation of Cornelius Barents Van Wyck, who came to this country from the town of Wyck in Holland, in 1650, and married ten years later a daughter of the Rev. Johannes Theodorus Polhemus, the first Dutch Reformed Minister in Kings county. With his brother, the late Robert A. Van Wyck, first Mayor of Greater New York, he was one of the founders of the Holland Society of New York and was its President in 1892.

Educated at Phillips Exeter and the University of North Carolina Augustus Van Wyck practised law for a time in Richmond, Va., but in 1871 moved to Brooklyn. In 1884 he was elected a Judge of the Superior Court of Brooklyn serving until a provision of the new State Constitution caused his transfer to the Supreme Court in 1896 for the ensuing two years.

Early in his residence in Brooklyn he took an active part in Democratic politics. In 1880 he was one of the chief promoters of the successful movement for the reorganization of the Democratic Party in Brooklyn, and in 1882 was elected President of the County General Committee. He served for several years on the Democratic State Committee and was frequently a delegate to the national, State, county and city conventions of the party. Some surprise was occasioned, however, when he received the nomination in 1898 to run for Governor against Theodore Roosevelt, then fresh from his exploits at San Juan Hill. Although the Democrats were supposed to be in an exceptionally strong position for the campaign, Colonel Roosevelt's popularity gave the victory to the Republicans in a close contest. The Justice virtually retired from politics after his defeat, returning to his law practice. His offices were at 149 Broadway.