54038

1290

WILLIAM READESON
IMPORTERS OF
HARDWARE
GUNS &c.
13 FANEUIL HALL SQ
BOSTON

PA

Mr Levi J Hemenway
Shrewsbury
Mass

Edward Read, for many years a member of the firm of William Read & Sons, dealers in guns, military and sporting goods, passed away on Tuesday.

Mr. Read was born in Cambridge, 69 years ago, the son of William Reed, who was the founder of the Boston business house. His mother was Sarah Goodwin (Atkins) Read. Mr Read studied at Harvard and was graduated in the class of '69. During his university days he was a member of all the leading college societies. Upon his graduation he entered his father's house which became his life business until his retirement a few years ago. Mr. Read was a member of the Oakley Country Club, and is survived by his wife, one son and one daughter.

The funeral took place on Thursday at his late home, 24 Highland street, and was conducted by Rev. S. M. Crothers. Burial was at Mount Auburn Cemetery.

The firm of William Read & Sons, probably the oldest gun importing house in the country, has just passed into the third generation.

Established in 1826 as Lane & Read its former place of business was in Dock square. Following the passing away of Mr. Lane in 1849, the business was conducted under the name of William Read until 1854, when it became William Read & Son, William Read, Jr., entering the business. John Read and Edward Read became interested between 1866 and 1870, at which time the present name of William Read & Sons was adopted. In 1882 the firm moved to its present location in Adams square at 107 Washington street.

The former members of the partnership now retire in favor of a younger member of the family, J. Bertram Read. The business now covers practically everything in the sporting goods line. The Reads are all well known Cambridge residents.

The well-known sporting goods store of William Read & Sons, 364 Washington street, which has been in existence 95 years mainly a "gun store," has been sold to the Winchester Company of New Haven, Conn., which will hereafter conduct the business under the firm name of William Read & Sons Company.

Edward Pugsley will be president of the new company. J. Bertram Read, of this city, president of the firm for the last few years will be hereafter vice-president, while R. E. Anderson and R. C. Swanton will be respectively treasurer and assistant treasurer.

Mr. Pugsley is already general manager of the retail stores of the Winchester Company, Mr. Anderson is treasurer of the Winchester Repeating Arms Company, and Mr. Swanton is general auditor of the Winchester Company.

The "gun store," established in 1826 by William Read and Edward Lane, was on the corner of Dock square and Change avenue till 1882, when it was removed to the corner of Adams square and Cornhill, Mr. Lane having died and Mr. Read's sons been added to the firm by that time. Another removal was to 107 Washington street, whence a change was finally made to the present premises, nearly opposite the foot of Bromfield street.

During the Civil War Read's did a great business in guns and ammunition. During the Klondike rush, 23 years ago, thousands of men were outfitted from that establishment.

02/27/2015

The Charter Oak Colt Root, serial number 4442, has been in my family since it was given by inventor Samuel Colt to my great great grandfather William Read — the founder and owner of William Read & Sons, gunsmiths of Boston, Mass. William Read's gun store, informally known as "The Old Gun House," was first located in Faneuil Hall Square (Quincy Market), and later on Washington Street. It was in business for around a century before it was sold to the Winchester Company in the mid-1920s.

William Read passed the gun to his son Edward Read, who was one of the "Sons" in the business. From him, it went to my grandfather Edward Sears Read (an architect), who then left it to me when he passed away in the 1970s.

Edward S. Read III

Edward S. Read, III

Rose Kalaurdis

Notary Public
Comm. Expires
July 30 2015
State of MA
County of Middlesex.