

GEORGE G. HAVEN DIES AFTER AN OPERATION

Prominent as a Banker, and President of the Metropolitan Opera Realty Co.

WELL KNOWN IN SOCIETY

His Generosity and Tact Did Much to Smooth the Path of Grand Opera in This City.

George Griswold Haven, banker and President of the Metropolitan Opera and Real Estate Company, who has been more prominently identified with the Metropolitan Opera House than probably any other man for many years, died yesterday as the result of an operation for gall stones. Mr. Haven had been in failing health for many months, but until a few weeks ago was seen almost daily at the Metropolitan Opera House and at his banking offices, 28 Liberty Street.

On March 7 Mr. Haven was operated on for gall stones at his home, 24 East Thirty-ninth Street. Following the operation he seemed to rally, and his children and the family physician thought that he would pull through in spite of his age.

All seemed to go well until Saturday, when he suffered a relapse. From then until the hour of his death his five children were constantly at his bedside or within call. He gradually grew worse, and yesterday was kept alive by oxygen until 8 o'clock, when he died.

As President of the Metropolitan Opera and Real Estate Company and managing Director of the board, Mr. Haven was the most active manager of the Opera House. He has probably done more for grand opera in New York than any other one man. When financial embarrassment threatened the Metropolitan he did not hesitate to dig deep into his own pocket to insure the continuation of grand opera in this city. Although not of a musical bent himself he was a great admirer of singers, and among his warmest friends were the great artists who in the last dozen years have appeared at the Metropolitan.

In spite of his large banking interests, Mr. Haven usually found time to keep in direct touch with all that pertained to the active management of the Metropolitan, and spent much of his time at the Opera House. Last year when a furor followed the production of "Salome," Mr. Haven was foremost among those responsible for the suppression of that opera. He had many warm friends on the business staff of the Opera House, all of whom expressed great sorrow upon learning of his death.

Henry Mallen, a special officer at the Opera House, one of the oldest men in the company's service, was in tears last night when a reporter called.

"We all loved him, and will feel his loss keenly," he said.

Otto H. Kahn said last night: "Mr. Haven's death will be a great loss to the Opera House. I feel a deep personal loss."

Ernest Goerlitz, Assistant Director of the Opera House, said: "Mr. Haven was my friend, and his death has affected me deeply. I was warned at noon to-day that he could hardly be expected to live twenty-four hours. Last season, when I was directing the affairs of the Opera House during Mr. Conried's illness, he was more than kind. The Opera House sustains a severe loss in his death."

Business and Social Career.

Mr. Haven was a member of an old New York family. After graduating from Columbia University in 1857 he went into business, and in 1866 joined the Stock Exchange. He was connected with many large business interests, being a Director of twenty or more important companies, which included the Morton Trust Company, Guaranty Trust Company, the Bank of America, National Bank of Commerce, the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad, and Vice President and Director of the Pittsburg, Fort Wayne & Chicago Railroad.

He was well known in society, and it was his social prestige and experience that handled the delicate situation of allotting Metropolitan Opera House boxes, without favoritism, so successfully. He was an enthusiastic member of the New York Yacht Club, although in recent years he left the handling of his boats to others. He was also fond of coaching, and was one of the first members of the Coaching Club, being a skillful four-in-hand driver.

Besides his city home he had houses at Newport, R. I., and Lenox, Mass. Among the many clubs he belonged to were the Union, Metropolitan, Knickerbocker, Automobile, Union League, and Turf and Field. He was 73 years of age.

Mr. Haven leaves three daughters and two sons. They are Mrs. Borland, Mrs. Forsythe Wickes, and Mrs. Wetmore, George G. Haven, Jr., and J. Woodward Haven.

Funeral services will be held Saturday in the Church of the Incarnation.