

FREDERICK JAMES STERNS

SKOWHEGAN - Frederick James Sterns, 94, of Skowhegan, died Saturday, Nov. 23, 2002, at his home. He was born in Bangor, May 4, 1908, the son of Harry L. Sterns and Bessis (Shiro) Sterns, and grew up in Bangor and Hartland.

He graduated from Hartland Academy in 1925 and Colby College in 1929. He was accepted at the Harvard Business School, but was unable to attend when his father became ill unexpectedly. He moved to Skowhegan in 1929 and established Sterns Department Store, which he operated for more than 50 years with his wife of 62 years, Sarah H. Sterns, who predeceased him in 1995, and later his son, Richard S. Sterns, before retiring in 1977, when his daughter-in-law, Florence Blaisdell Sterns took over the business and the premises, which then and later housed The Village Candle Light Restaurant. He was part owner of Sterns Department Store in Waterville, working with his brothers, George and Herbert, and sister-in-law, Florence Sterns Lobron. The Sterns family was in business in Maine for three generations, approximately 90 years.

He was active in many civic and religious organizations and was a charter member of the Skowhegan Lions Club, president of the Skowhegan Chamber of Commerce, the president of Fairview Hospital and the founding president of the Redington-Fairview General Hospital after the merger of the two local hospitals. Sterns served on many Boards of Trustees, including Pine Tree Council of Boy Scouts and Camp Lown. He was active in the various Masonic Orders for many years as a member of

Central Maine Shrine Club and Kora Temple, serving in all the offices. Sterns was a member of the Skowhegan Oddfellows, a member of various town bands in Skowhegan and Madison, and played at the opening of the concrete bridge in Norridgewock in 1929 with the Hartland Academy Band. Sterns was a member of various Jewish organizations, including B'nai Brith, the American Jewish Congress, and Beth Israel Synagogue in Waterville.

Survivors include his two sons and daughters-in-law, Richard S. and Florence B. Sterns of Skowhegan, and Drs. Harvey L. Sterns and Ronni S. Sterns of Akron, Ohio; grandchildren, Dr. Michael J. Sterns of Emerald Hills, Calif., Pamela Sterns Gartner of Toronto, Ontario, Daniel Sterns of Bellevue, Wash., Susan Blaisdell of Norridgewock, Karen LaCasse of Edgecomb, Nancy Blaisdell Baxter of Skowhegan, Dr. Anthony A. Sterns of Akron, Ohio, Randy Rose Sterns of Belmont, Calif. and George H. Sterns of New Bern, N.C.; and 16 great-grandchildren.

Memorial services will be held at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 26, at the Beth Israel Synagogue, Main Street, Waterville, with Rabbi Raymond Krinsky officiating. Interment will take place at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 26, at the Beth Israel Cemetery in Bangor following the services. The family will receive visitors from 7-9 p.m. Nov. 26, at the home of Richard and Florence Sterns on Norridgewock Avenue in Skowhegan. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Congregation Beth Israel, 144 York St., Bangor 04401, or to the various Masonic or Lions Club charities. A service of Brookings-Smith, Bangor.