

NORMAN B. REAM, CAPITALIST, DEAD

Director in 22 Corporations
Succumbs in Presbyterian
Hospital in 71st Year.

GOT START IN PORK 'CORNER'

His Wealth Grew with Grain Operations
of Chicago's "Big Four"
—Builder of Railways.

Norman B. Ream, capitalist, died yesterday at the Presbyterian Hospital, where he was operated upon recently for the removal of gall stones. His home was at 903 Park Avenue.

Long before Norman Bruce Ream had become the man of great and varied interests as which he was known for years in this city, he had gone through a typically American cycle of farm boy, school teacher, professional photographer, soldier, clerk in a country store, country merchant, and commission man. Thirty years ago he was a big figure on the Chicago Board of Trade, and he was largely instrumental in the erection of the first steel skyscraper, the Rookery, in Chicago.

Mr. Ream was born in Somerset County, Penn., on Nov. 15, 1844, of American stock, although his father, Levi Ream, was of German extraction. One of his ancestors, John Ream, was active in the Revolutionary War. His mother's family was Anglo-Scotch, but had been settled in New Jersey for generations.

He was reared on his father's farm and educated in the district schools till he was 14, after which he taught school for a few months and then entered the County Normal School. It was at this time that he took up photography, then in its infancy, and some of his daguerreotypes are doubtless treasured to this day by the descendants of his subjects.

Entered the Civil War at 17.

He was 17 when the civil war began and at the first call of President Lincoln he volunteered and went to the front with the Eighty-fifth Pennsylvania. He was soon promoted through the non-commissioned ranks to First Lieutenant. He was engaged in the Peninsular campaign under McClellan and was in action successively at the siege of Yorktown and the battles of Williamsburg, Savage Station, and Fair Oaks and participated in the seven-days' fight before Richmond. He went to North Carolina under Gen. Foster, participating in the engagements at Trenton, Southwest Creek, Kingston, Whitehall, and Goldsborough.

From there he went to the Department of the South, taking part in the siege of Charleston in the Summer of 1863. In the battle of Whitmarsh Island in 1864 he was severely wounded and was sent to the hospital for three months. On June 16 he returned to his regiment just in time for the fight at Wear Bottom Church, near Bermuda Hundreds, the same day and to receive a shot in the right leg. From that time on he was hit in every engagement with the enemy till in August, 1864, he resigned, being utterly incapacitated for further service.

For about a year he served as a clerk in a Pennsylvania country store. In 1866 he removed to Princeton, Ill., and the following year to Osceola, Iowa, in both of which places he engaged in a general mercantile business. In 1871 he went to Chicago, where he entered on a prosperous career as a live stock and grain commission merchant. The real foundation of his fortune is said to have been laid in the famous Armour pork corner of 1879. The Armour crowd began buying pork at \$6 and \$7 a barrel, and when the climax came it controlled nearly all the pork in the world, which it closed out for \$19 a barrel. Mr. Ream acted as one of the Armour brokers in this operation, and his share of the profits was large.

In the "Big Four" Combination.

When the great McGeoch lard crash came in 1883, and the grain markets were toppling to pieces in sympathy, the combination known as the "Big Four," consisting of Mr. Ream, John Cudahy, Nathaniel Jones, and Charles Singer, was hastily formed, and the market, being buoyed up by its heavy purchases at the height of the panic, made after B. P. Hutchinson had set the example, gradually assumed its normal condition. For the next year the "Big Four" virtually controlled the Chicago grain and provision markets, and the Ream fortune continued to increase.

Mr. Ream had great faith in Chicago and invested heavily in Chicago real estate, as well as in ranch property in the Western States. He also bought largely of Pullman and bank stocks. During this period he became an intimate friend of Marshall Field, George M. Pullman, and E. H. Gary.

Mr. Ream became a member of the New York Stock Exchange in 1885, and in 1888 he withdrew from the commission business to devote his time to his extensive real estate, street railway, railroad, and other interests.

For a good many years he had made his headquarters in New York, with a personal office at 24 Broad Street. He was one of the organizers of the National Biscuit Company and the United States Steel Corporation. He organized and constructed many railroad, street railway, and other public utility properties.

His Extensive Interests.

He was a Director or Trustee of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, Central Safety Deposit Company, Chicago & Erie Railroad, Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton, Cumberland Corporation, Equitable Life Assurance Society, Erie Railroad, Fidelity-Phenix Fire Insurance Company, First National Bank of Chicago, Franco-American Financial Association, Metropolitan Trust Company of New York, Mount Hope Cemetery Association, National Biscuit Company, New York, Susquehanna & Western Railway, New York Trust Company, Père Marquette Railroad, Pullman Company, Reliance Company, Seaboard Air Line, Securities Company, Sussex Realty Company, and United States Steel Corporation.

Mr. Ream was married on Feb. 19, 1876, at Madison, N. Y., to Miss Caroline T. Putnam, a daughter of Dr. John Putnam. To them were born four sons and two daughters.

Mr. Ream was a member of the Union Club, South Side Sportsmen's Club, Garden City Golf Club, City Midday Club, Automobile Club of America, National Arts Club, New York Yacht Club, Sleep Hollow Country Club, Metropolitan Club of Washington, and the Chicago Club.