

ONLY LIVING UNITED STATES CITIZEN, HONORED IN CANADA: DIES .

ALONZO CLARK MATHER 92 yrs.::: gave Park to Fort Erie.
Succumbs in California::: was former Buffalo resident.

from the Buffalo Evening News Jan 28th., 1941.

A man who spent a large part of his life time, exemplifying the spirit of International Goodwill between the United States and Canada: Alonzo Clark Mather 92, died Sat. night in his home in Los Angeles. Death was said to have resulted from a fall last August, in which he suffered fractures of the left shoulder and hand.

While a resident of Buffalo Mr. Mather was widely known as a philanthropist on the Canadian border where a park forming the approaches to the Peace Bridge, was named Mather Park in his honor last year. Mr. Mather donated seventy-five acres for the Park and \$30,000 for its construction. Mather Memorial Arch in the Park was the only monument in Canada erected in honor of a living American. Mr. Mather was President of the Greater Mather Fort Erie Realty Company, and was the largest individual land owner in Bertie Township, which includes Fort Erie.

His holdings were especially extensive in the vicinity of the Old Fort. He owned the Mather Arms Hotel on the Garrison Road. Mr. Mather donated the site of the Mather Public School, in Fort Erie. Two years ago when a housing shortage developed in Fort Erie, Mr. Mather launched a project for the construction of houses in various sizes. Thirty houses were built as part of the program.

At the time of his death Mr. Mather was contemplating a project for deepening the harbour at Fort Erie Beach, to accommodate lake vessels. It was his opinion that everything possible should be done to develop the Canadian side of the entrance to the Niagara River.

Born in Fairfield, Herkimer County, April 22, 1848; Mr. Mather was a descendent of Richard Mather, who emigrated to the United States from England in 1635. Richards son was Increase Mather, a Missionary; Richards Grandson was Gottleb Mather, a New England preacher. The father of Alonzo Mather was Dr. William Mather, and his mother was Mary Ann Buell.

He obtained his education in Fairfield Preparatory School; which his grandfather Moses Mather had founded in 1802, as a Medical College. His father was president of the School for nearly twenty-five years; and was widely known as an outstanding writer and lecturer on natural science and chemistry.

After two years working in stores in Utica & Little Falls Mr. Mather moved to Quincy Ill. In 1875 he opened a men's furnishing wholesale business, in Madison St. in Chicago, and for twenty years was one of the city's leading merchants.

Mr. Mather was the first to construct railway stock cars, which he leased to railway companies; thereby laying the foundations of his fortune. At his death he was President of the Humane Stock Transportation Company of Chicago.

About one half century ago, Mr. Mather conceived the idea of a International Bridge near the present Peace Bridge, to be combined with a hydroelectric power development project. His plan called for generation of electric power, by waterwheels under the bridge.

To provide approaches to the Bridge and Power project Mr. Mather obtained more than one hundred acres of land on both sides of the Niagara River, and won approval of the Canadian and Municipal authorities. State and Federal authorities, however, opposed Mr. Mather's project. Two Bills authorizing the project were vetoed.

Theodore Roosevelt as Governor of New York, signed a third Bill authorizing the project, but Congress inacted legislation requiring Congressional approval of the program, before it could be built.

When the Peace Bridge Commission sought land for a Canadian terminus, Mr. Mather offered it at a cost, without profit; and then included in the transaction the lands and waterlots, constituting the major portion of the Canadian Park.

Mr. Mather was unable to attend the formal opening of Mather Park last year because of injuries. He was represented by a cousin Richard B. Mather, 41 Nassau Ave., Kenmore, who read a message from the aged philanthropist in which he expressed his delight that "the two great nations of the North American Continent are not merely at Peace; but living in harmony as friendly neighbors.

At the Ceremony, John W. Van Allen general counsel for the Buffalo Fort Erie Peace Bridge Authority, paid tribute to Mr. Mather as: "endowed by his Creator with the ability to grasp what works of men were necessary to put it's resources to useful purpose."

Mr. Mather moved to Chicago about thirty five years ago (1906), and later to Los Angeles. He was married twice; to Martha O Johnson in 1878, and after her death to Louise Eames in 1880.

He had a daughter by his first wife, Miss Martha J. Mather and two nephews Jesse Watkins Jr. & Frank Watkins, of Chicago.