

Obituary, Joseph Aloysius Ells, Balto. American, 1 Feb 1915

Joseph A. Ells

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Secretary and manager of the Gentelmen's Driving Park Association, who died at his home, near Ellicott City, early yesterday morning.

J. A. ELLS, SR. DEAD

Was Secretary of Gentlemen's Driving Club Association.

Joseph A. Ells, Sr., one of the most widely known men throughout Maryland, died early yesterday morning at his home, Ellsworth, near Ellicott City. Death was due to Bright's disease. He had been in failing health for about one year, but had only been confined to his bed two weeks. He was 54 years of age and was born in Chambersburg, Pa. and when about five years old moved with his parents, the late Conrad and Marie Ells, to Maryland, locating near this city. After studying in the public school at Oella he entered Rock Hill College, and [graduated with high honors]? standing third in a large class. While at Rock Hill he was one of the best athletes, being considered the best amateur baseball catcher in Maryland at that time.

After finishing his course at college he accepted a position as bookkeeper with Martin & McAndrews in Baltimore. He was employed by that firm 32 years. He was secretary and manager of the Gentleman's Driving Park Association of Baltimore, which in its day was one of the fastest half-mile harness tracks in the South. He was instrumental in building up light-harness-racing in Maryland. Mr. Ells was a member of the Rock Hill College Alumni Association and St. Paul's Council No. 205 of Ellicott City. Ellsworth, his late home, is one of the prettiest in Baltimore County. At one time he studied to be an architect and drew the plans for remodeling his home. His wife before marriage was Miss Gertrude Tate, of Gettysburg, Pa. Besides his widow he is survived by the following children, Mrs. J. Dougherty Mahon and Joseph A. Ells Jr., and six sisters and one brother (Mrs. George McKenzie and Mrs. Augustus Wallenhorst and Mrs. Charles Atkinson of Baltimore and Mrs. A. A. Jones, Mrs. Charles Holden, Miss Mary Ells and Bernard Ells of Baltimore County).

The funeral will take place from St Pauls' Catholic Church, Ellicott City.