

## Helen K. Hubbard née Otis

Updated! This photo has been reunited with its family!



**Helen Keep Otis** was born on October 1st, 1874 in Chicago, Illinois. Her father George Livingston Otis was a prominent in the banking and business circles of Chicago. George had married Helen's mother Mary W. née Keep in November 1872 and Helen was the couple's only child. In 1880, the family was living at 1710 Michigan Avenue in Chicago. I suppose this photo of Helen was taken in her teens in the late 1880s. The shorter skirt suggests that she was at school-girl age.

Helen's father died unexpectedly in March 1899 when she was 14. According to his obituary in the *Chicago Tribune* on March 30th, 1899, he died while sitting in bed and reading a newspaper, just having returned from a short family vacation trip to New York. The year before, Mr. and Mrs. Otis and their daughter Helen had been travelling abroad for 15 months. Mother Mary and daughter Helen did some more travelling after father's passing, they applied for passports in September 1899. Looks like Helen's mother continued the family realty business. I read many mentions of Helen's mother Mary K. Otis in deeds, testaments and gifts involving real estate in and around Chicago.

On January 15, 1901, Helen married **Elijah Kent Hubbard** in Chicago.

Miss Helen Keep Otis was quietly married to Elijah Kent Hubbard, Jr., of Middletown, Conn., yesterday. The bride is a daughter of Mrs. George Livingston Otis, No. 2014 Michigan avenue, and the marriage took place at the home of the bride's uncle, Chauncey Keep, No. 2825 Prairie avenue. Miss Katherine Dexter of Boston was maid of honor, and E. Dyer Hubbard was best man. The Rev. William Hicks of New York city officiated at the ceremony. Mr. and Mrs. Hubbard left for a wedding journey, and at its conclusion will reside at Middletown, Conn.

Link: [newspapers.com](http://newspapers.com)

Elijah was a man of wealth and prominence in Hartford, Connecticut. The couple moved to Middletown, Middlesex, Connecticut after their honeymoon. The 1920 Census has them living in Middletown with their four children – Otis, Channery, Helen and Mildred, and a list of servants and a cook.

Looks like Helen loved travelling all her life. Just like her mother and father travelled with her in the late 1890s, she travelled with her own children in the 1920s and 1930s. She took them to see France, Italy, Switzerland, Great Britain, Belgium, Cuba, Bermuda. Her 1923 passport application for international travels also includes her photo with daughter Helen (oh, how I wish the quality was any better!):



Helen passed away unexpectedly on January 1941 while on vacation in Florida. She was buried at the Graceland Cemetery in Chicago. Her obituaries published in the *Hartford Courant* and *Chicago Tribune* in January 1941 reveal many details about Helen's life. She graduated from the University of Chicago. She loved books and music. She was active in Middletown community, engaging in playground and musical activities. She was a director of the Hartford Symphony Society and Symphony Society of Connecticut.

## Mrs. Hubbard, On Vacation In Fla., Dies

Wife of Manufacturers  
Assn. Head Had Wide  
Cultural Interests; Fu-  
neral Plans Incomplete

Middletown, Jan. 25.—(Special).—Mrs. Helen Keep (Otis) Hubbard, wife of E. Kent Hubbard, president of the Manufacturers Association of Connecticut, died Saturday at 2:30 a. m. at the Lake Wales, Fla., hospital to which she was admitted Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. Hubbard left for a Florida vacation January 10 after Mr. Hubbard had recovered from an illness. They were visiting at the winter home of John H. Goss of Waterbury, vice-president of the Manufacturers Association, when Mrs. Hubbard was stricken.

Funeral arrangements are incomplete.

Besides her husband, Mrs. Hubbard leaves two sons, Otis Livingston Hubbard of Chicago, and Chauncey Keep Hubbard of New York City; two daughters, Mrs. Helen Hubbard Dodge of Greenwich, and Miss Mildred deKoven Hubbard of Middletown; and five grandchildren.

Mrs. Hubbard was born in Chicago October 1, 1874, a daughter of the late George Livingston and Mary W. Keep Otis. She was graduated from the University of Chicago and after extensive travels in Europe married Mr. Hubbard in Chicago January 15, 1901. She had lived in Middletown ever since. Mrs. Hubbard was interested in playground and musical activities here. She was a director of the Hartford Symphony Society and the Symphony Society of Connecticut and was a member of the Connecticut Valley Garden Club. Deeply interested in the Russell Library in Middletown she also contributed to the upbuilding of a library in Camden, Me., where her mother had a summer home, and showed great interest in musical events there. The Hubbards made their home in their Arawana estate, off Newfield Street, Middletown.



Link: [newspapers.com](http://newspapers.com)

I have added Helen's photo to [FindAGrave](#), [FamilySearch](#) and [Geni](#).

Helen's husband Elijah Kent Hubbard passed away in the same year, just 8 months later in August 1941. The surname Hubbard is a household name in Middletown and in Hartford, Connecticut. Elijah's career was very impressive and his obituaries in the many newspapers spread on pages and pages. Just to give you an idea what kind of a man Helen's husband was, here's an obituary from the *Hartford Courant* from August 8th, 1941 (Link: [newspapers.com](http://newspapers.com)):

## E. K. Hubbard Is Taken By Death At 72

**Manufacturers' Association Head Since 1917 Was State's Leading Speaker For Industry**

**Had Long Career Of Public Service**

**Member of Connecticut Board of Finance For 13 Years; On State Defense Council**

Elijah Kent Hubbard, president of the Manufacturers Association of Connecticut since 1917, and one of the state's most prominent citizens, died at his home in Middletown at 4 o'clock Thursday afternoon. He was 72 years old.

He became ill while vacationing in Maine a week ago, and while he had been in poor health ever since, his death was unexpected.

Long identified as Connecticut's leading spokesman for industry, he held many public and private offices of high trust. A lifelong Democrat, he engaged actively in politics only once, when he ran for lieutenant governor on the Democratic ticket in 1903. He declined the nomination for state treasurer in 1916, since after 1902, according to his public and private utterances, his interest in politics was "primarily in connection with his desire to aid Connecticut industry and its workers to attain competitive supremacy."

Mr. Hubbard was a descendant of George Hubbard, an emigrant from England, who came to this country in 1639, and moved from Hartford to Mattabesset, now Middletown, in 1658. He was the fifth to bear the name Elijah Kent.

### Born In Chicago.

He was born in Chicago, February 5, 1869, son of Elijah Kent and Anna Jones (Dyer) Hubbard. He attended school in Chicago and then came east to St. Paul's School, Concord, N. H. He matriculated at Trinity in 1888.

The public career to which most of his life was devoted began in his student days at Trinity, where he was a star center on the varsity football team for four years, and drew favorable mention from the great Walter Camp. He was also a member of the only Trinity baseball team ever to beat Yale. This occurred on May 19, 1891. Mr. Hubbard, playing first base, went hitless that day, but made seven put-outs, and one error.

Upon his graduation from Trinity in 1892, he entered the employ of the Russell Manufacturing Company, which was founded by his uncle, Henry G. Hubbard, in 1824. He became treasurer of the company in 1912, but resigned in 1913 to become president of the Maxim Slicer Company in Hartford.

In 1917 he left private industry to become president of the Manufacturers Association of Connecticut, succeeding Colonel George Pope of Hartford. In the following years, he maintained the prestige of the Association on a high plane, and extended its influence widely.

When the State Board of Finance was created by the Legislature in 1915, Mr. Hubbard was appointed to serve on it by Governor Marcus H. Holcomb, and continued in the state service for 13 years, during which time "Connecticut came to be looked upon as a pioneer in the wise and judicious spending of the money of its citizens."

### Prominent In Middletown.

In Middletown, Mr. Hubbard was long associated in prominent positions with many civic and business organizations. For over twenty-five years he was a director of the Middlesex Hospital and at one time was the head of that institution. For many years he was a director of the Russell Library, and since 1910 he had been a director of the

## E. Kent Hubbard Dies At Age 72

(Continued from Page 1.)

Middletown National Bank. At one time he was president of the Morris Plan Bank of Middletown.

As president of the Manufacturers Association of Connecticut, he had assumed many responsibilities in the furtherance of the interests and development of manufacturing enterprises in this state. He was appointed by Governor Baldwin as chairman of the Industrial Division of the State Defense Council and again by Governor Hurley as the representative of industry on the State Defense Council. He was a director of the New England Council since its organization, representing Connecticut, a director and vice-president of the Eastern States Exposition, treasurer of the Connecticut Tercentenary Commission; vice-chairman for Connecticut of Newcomen Society of England.

### Had Many Interests.

The list of his directorships and trusteeships testifies to the catholicity of his interests. In addition to those already named, he was a member of the board of Wesleyan University, the Willcox and Gibbs Sewing Machine Company, the Bridgeport Brass Company, the Connecticut Power Company, the Capewell Manufacturing Company, St. Luke's Home, the National Industrial Conference Board, the Metropolitan Sewing Machine Company, the Middlesex County Boy Scouts, the Camden Library, and the Phoenix State Bank and Trust Company.

Mr. Hubbard for many years was a recognized exponent of prison reform. In recognition of the righteousness of his viewpoint and his ability to carry out his ideas, he was appointed to the Board of the Cheshire Reformatory in 1911 and was its treasurer for 12 years. Upon the death of Colonel Norris G. Osborne in 1932, Mr. Hubbard was appointed to fill his place on the Connecticut State Prison Board, and at the same time, to the Board of Parole.

### Held College Trusteeship.

He was at one time a trustee of Connecticut Agricultural College, a member of the New England Governors Railroad Committee for 16 years, the Middletown Park Commission, the emergency committee on unemployment, and the commission on re-naming Connecticut Agricultural College.

In 1934, he was awarded the honorary degree of Master of Arts by Wesleyan University.

He was at one time a trustee of Trinity College, and a member of Psi Upsilon fraternity and a director of the Colt Trust Association of that fraternity.

Many organizations and individuals were the beneficiaries of Mr. Hubbard's generosity and philanthropy.

He was Deputy Governor-General for Connecticut of the General Society of Colonial Wars, president of the Society of Cincinnati and a Thirty-second Degree Mason.

His clubs included the Conversational Club, Middletown; Twentieth Century Club, Middletown; Metropolitan Club and University Club, New York; Hartford Club; Graduates Club, New Haven; Army and Navy Club and Congressional Club, Washington; Edgewood Country Club, Cromwell; Union Inter-Allied, Paris; Hammonasset Fishing Club; Dauntless Yacht Club; Middletown Yacht Club; Algonquin Club, Boston; and Chicago Club, Chicago.

Mr. Hubbard was married January 15, 1901, to Helen Keep Otis, who died in February of this year. He leaves two sons, Otis Livingston Hubbard of Chicago and Chauncey Keep Hubbard of New York; two daughters, Mrs. Helen Hubbard Dodge of Greenwich and Miss Mildred deKoven Hubbard of Middletown; and five grandchildren, Otis L. Hubbard, Jr., Barbara and Elijah Kent Hubbard, and Jonathan and Kent Hubbard Dodge.

On April 1, 1930, Mr. Hubbard had the rare privilege of a personal interview with Benito Mussolini, then somewhat more successful than at present. They discussed the industrial policy at great length. Mr. Hubbard could not approve. He "viewed it as tragic that such a dictatorship should be imposed upon a people."

Mussolini and his policies are

successful in Italy," he said. "In the United States, where force gives way to diplomacy, he could not achieve an appreciable part of the results which made him the supreme dictator of Italy, and one of the outstanding political leaders of all time."

### Tribute By Cornelius.

The following tribute was paid to Mr. Hubbard Thursday night by Sidney E. Cornelius, manager of the Hartford County Manufacturers Association:

"The passing of E. Kent Hubbard, president of the Manufacturers Association of Connecticut, from the great field of service, which he occupied for so many years, to Connecticut industry, will be keenly felt by every industrialist and local association of manufacturers in the state.

"The Manufacturers Association of Hartford County, closer in physical relationship to headquarters of his association, felt and had a closer kinship. We recognized his functions and that of the association which he had as a spearhead of attack in matters which affected the welfare of the entire state, legislatively and otherwise.

"As such he merited, and, we know, received, our entire cooperation. Being a man of strong principles and endowed with a spirit of fairness and integrity in all matters that involved organizational relationship, he was jealously guardian of his association's activities, but ever mindful of territorial jurisdictions and prideful accomplishments of sectional groups, whose functions and endeavors might possibly be duplicated or encroached upon unless his meticulous care and understanding were exercised.

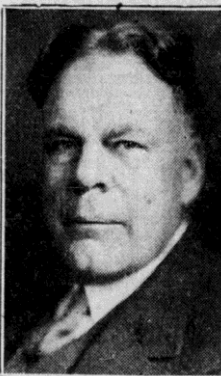
"The State of Connecticut and every local group of local industrialists in it will more and more regret his absence."

### "Great Loss to State."

"The State of Connecticut has sustained a great loss and industry has lost one of its best friends," said Dexter D. Coffin, president of C. H. Dexter and Sons Company in Windsor Locks and president of the Manufacturers Association of Hartford County on learning of Mr. Hubbard's death.

The funeral will be held Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Middletown. Burial will be in Graceland Cemetery, Chicago. The family requests that flowers be omitted.

## State Manufacturers' Group President Dies



E. KENT HUBBARD

(Concluded on Page 4.)

I also came across a blogpost about the Hubbards' mansion in Middletown that you can read [HERE](#):



Source: [The Middletown Eye](#)

This photos has been reunited with its family recently.

Photos Without Families, originally shared on [www.photoswithoutfamilies.blog](http://www.photoswithoutfamilies.blog)