

Millers Falls News and Erving Gazette

And

Will (Willie) L. Strong

As printed in the

Greenfield Gazette and Courier

And

Greenfield Recorder-Gazette

For the dates given.

Search.

[Old Fulton New York Post Cards \(fultonhistory.com\)](http://fultonhistory.com)



Search criteria:

Millers Falls News; Erving Gazette; Will or Willie Strong



Chronologically Ordered.



Entry dates are linked to the **PDF** that will access the Fulton newspaper article.

Compiled by

ED GREGORY

December, 2023

September 29, 1884

[Greenfield MA Gazette 1882-1884 - 0597.pdf](#)

Erving

An amateur paper called the Erving Gazette is published weekly by Willie L. Strong, a lad of 10 years. The number for Sept. 10 has a poem from the pen of Dr. C.L. Fisk.

July 14, 1938

[Greenfield MA Recorder 1938 - 0109.pdf](#)

Erving Boy Prodigy Was Publisher, Correspondent

TURNERS FALLS—With residents of Erving preparing for celebration of its centennial on July 23, an interesting sidelight on the town's history comes from the old Erving Gazette, a bound volume of which has recently come into the possession of George F. Bury of the American house, a former tailor in Millers Falls.

First printed on Dec. 10, 1883, this one page, five by six inch, weekly was published by Willie L. Strong, then only nine years old. This precocious boy not only edited and published the pamphlet, but set type, read proof, and printed the sheet as well.

First News Item

The first edition contained no local news, but was filled with a dozen or so anecdotes. Not until the third edition, on Dec. 24, did local news appear, the following being the first item.

“While Mr. Loring Briggs was crossing the river, near the pulp; mill with an ox team, Saturday, the ice gave way and the oxen went into the river. They were helped out, after getting a good soaking.”

As subsequent editions appeared, more and more news appeared, some bits rather humorous, others, quaintly worded.

On Feb. 4, 1884, appears a note “The whistle at the shops now blows at 5 o'clock a.m. instead of 4:30. Probably business is improving. We hope so.”

Own Advertiser

The first advertising matter in this publication, for which subscribers paid 25 cents a year, was to announce that the printer, editor, and publisher then 10 years old was prepared to do all sorts of job printing at low prices, work guaranteed.

On Dec. 22, 1884, the edition was enlarged to a five by seven sheet now printed on both sides. More and more contributions from local authors and poets are noted,



particularly the works of Dr. C.L. Fisk, sr., who penned many commendatory verses to the young publisher.

Although no definite editorial policy was stated by the paper, it is evident from the sheets that Willie Strong was an ardent prohibitionist, though possessed with a keen sense of humor, as evidenced by one item which reads;

“There is a man out West, who drinks so much whiskey that mosquitoes who bite him die of delirium tremens.”

Final Issue

On Dec. 21, 1885, the last issue of the Erving Gazette was printed. Wille and his family having moved to Millers Falls in November. The paper then became the “Millers Falls News,” with date of publication changed from Tuesday to Saturday. Contents of the news were essentially the same as that of the parent Gazette. The paper continued until Dec. 31, 1887, when for no given reason, publication was suspended. The issue merely carries this notice;

“This paper, which has ben published for four years, will now be discontinued. Thanking our readers for their patronage in the past, we will close by wishing you all a Happy New Year.”

Willie L. Strong was born in Erving, midway between that town and Millers Falls, on Jan. 25, 1874, the son of Wesley D. and Arabelle J. (Root) Strong. He was educated in the district school and at an early age showed an exceedingly surprising ability. One critic of his paper has stated:

“The printing is better than that of the average country newspaper of the time, the proofreading is excellent, and the original and selected items show the workings of an unusually bright young mind.

Correspondent At 11

When the Strong family moved to Millers Falls in 1885, he attended the schools there, and also conducted a substantial job printing business. In addition, he was correspondent for the Greenfield Gazette and Courier and Orange Enterprise, this was when he was 11.

From Powers Institute in Bernardston, he graduated with high honors in June, 1892. He then entered Hinman’s business college in Worcester, graduating in April, 1893, at the age of 19.

Joined Railroad

On June 12 of that year he accepted a position as clerk in the Boston and Albany freight office in Worcester, and the following year became agent and cashier of the Fitchburg railroad at Millers Falls, where he remained for five years, acting as organist at the Congregational Church for some time.

In 1900, he was promoted to station agent at Marlboro, for the Boston and Maine, and from there was transferred to Troy, N.Y.

On Nov. 27, in Troy, he was stricken with typhoid fever, and died of that disease on Jan. 10, 1902, 15 days before his 28th birthday.

The funeral was held at the Congregational church in Millers Falls, and burial was in Bernardston.

June 6, 1954 Town of Montague 200th Bicentennial Anniversary

[Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1954 - 2514.pdf](#)

Youth Published Town Newspaper In 1880's

MILLERS FALLS—William Lester Strong was publisher of this community's only newspaper, the Millers Falls News, which appeared between 1884 and 1887.

Young Strong died at the age of 28, but even then, he had reached a position seldom obtained by men twice that age. He was well respected throughout the area and was considered a man of extraordinary intelligence.

Born in Erving Jan. 25, 1874, he published his first newspaper, the Erving Gazette, before his 10th birthday. This continued until, a year later, Willie brought out the Millers Falls News.

Moving to Millers Falls in November, 1885, William continued to attend public schools. He also served as Millers Falls correspondent for the Gazette and Courier, predecessor of 'toe Greenfield Recorder—Gazette, and for the Orange Enterprise. Strong was graduated from Powers Institute to Bernardston in 1892. He continued schooling at Hinman's Business College in Worcester, graduating in 1893, and rose in the ranks of the Boston & Maine and Albany Railroad. When he died on Jan. 10, 1902, Willie Strong was with the freight office at Troy. N. Y.

November 15, 1962

[Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1962 - 5222.pdf](#)

Display, No Fine Week at Ervingside Libray

MILLERS FALLS—Mrs. Flora Coutu, librarian at Ervingside Library, today announced this is No Fine Week at the library.

Children's National Book Week will be celebrated at the library as it has been for five years, with registration for the Classic Reading Club. Each year there is an increase in registrations, 25 being registered last year. It is hoped to have an even larger registration and many books added. The program will continue to, Feb. 12 for children from third grade up.

Mrs. Coutu has rules for the club and copies may be obtained during library hours, Monday and Thursday from 6 to 8:30 and Saturday from 1 to 6:30.

On display this week is a history of early Millers Falls written by the late John Taggart, a book about the Erving Centennial, containing copies of newspapers, the Millers Falls News and Erving Gazette, published by Will Strong and owned by Mrs. Robert Campbell.

A large print of Millers Falls in 1889, when the village had two covered bridges, cutlery shop, knitting mill and Millers Falls Co. was loaned by Miss Julia Carroll.

A copy of this was given Mrs. Coutu by Mrs. Clarence' Packard and Mrs. Thurley Ellis of Foxboro. She also has pictures of Main Streets when a fire was still smouldering[sic] and one of a parade when President Theodore Roosevelt visited here.

The public is invited to visit the library while the exhibit is there. The librarian will welcome any old photographs of interest.

