

H. I. DODGE DEAD; CREATED 'SKINNER'

Author and Playwright, Great-Nephew of Washington Irving, Succumbs at Age of 73.

SUCCESS CAME WHEN 45

'Skinner's Dress Suit' and Others on Same Character Were Most Popular Works.

Henry Irving Dodge, author and playwright, who created the character, Skinner, of "Skinner's Dress Suit" and other stories, died at 11 o'clock yesterday morning of angina pectonsi in the New York Hospital at the age of 73 after an illness of three months. He resided at Colonial Hall, Kew Gardens, Queens.

Through his grandmother, Anne Irving Dodge, Mr. Dodge was a great-nephew of Washington Irving. His paternal grandfather was Major Gen. Richard Henry Dodge, who fought in the Revolution and the War of 1812. Mr. Dodge was born at Kasoag, Oswego County, N. Y., where both his grandfathers had been large landholders.

After attending public schools he studied engineering in Texas and law in this city. Neither subject retained his interest and he turned to writing, first for newspapers, then for magazines. Going to London he spent several years there as a free lance writer and correspondent for the old New York Herald.

His road to success as an author proved a long one, for he was 45 when his novels, "The Other Mr. Barclay" and "The Hat and the Man," were published, and he was 55 when he introduced to the world his imaginary friend, William Manning Skinner, in "Skinner's Dress Suit." The story, published in 1916, won the sympathy of a large public and its immediate success led its author to "keep Skinner going" in three other well-received tales, "Skinner's Baby," "Skinner's Big Idea" and "Skinner Makes it Fashionable," the last issued in 1920.

The character scored in the "movies," too, receiving three different portrayals, two on the silent screen, by Bryant Washburn and Reginald Denny, and one for the talking films, by Glenn Tryon. Made into a play, "Skinner's Dress Suit" has often been presented by amateur performers, and it is being acted nearly every night this Summer by welfare players.

The list of Mr. Dodge's plays includes "The Counsel for the Defense," "The Higher Court," "The Whirlpool," "The Love Thought" and "The Recoil."

In 1902 Mr. Dodge married Margaret Small, daughter of a Maine sea captain, and years afterward he told an interviewer that whatever he might have accomplished of value was due largely to her.

She survives as do two sisters of the author, Mrs. Mary Du Puy of Port Richmond, S. I., and Mrs. Elizabeth Westervelt of Spring Valley, N. Y.



HENRY IRVING DODGE.