

BROOKS, Percival Willis, investment banker, was born in Augusta, Maine, Dec. 2, 1867, son of Samuel Spencer and Mary Caroline (Wadsworth) Brooks. His first paternal American ancestor was Thomas Brooks, who came to this country from England in 1656 and lived in Watertown and later settled in Concord, Mass. From Thomas the descent was through Joshua and Hannah Mason, Noar and Dorothy White, Joshua and Hannah Simonds, William and Susanna Howard, and John and Susan Cony, the grandparents of Percival W. Brooks. His father was in the steamship business. The son received his preparatory education at public schools in Augusta and was graduated A.B. in 1890 at Bowdoin College. He then did postgraduate work at Yale University for a year. In 1892 he became associated with N. W. Harris & Co., investment bankers of Boston, Mass., of which firm he became a member and sales manager several years later. In 1907 in association with Edgar Van Deusen, a financial statistician, he established his own securities firm, P. W. Brooks & Co., New York City, which he headed until his retirement in 1935. A branch office was opened in 1910 in Boston, Mass., later followed by additional offices in Augusta, Maine, as well as in cities in Connecticut, Pennsylvania, and New York. Railroad bonds and stocks and other public utilities securities were the early specialty of his firm, which in the 1920's turned its attention to industrial financing. Brooks was also president and a director of Norwalk (Conn.) Realty & Improvement Co. and president of the N. Y. Business Building Corp. Apart from his business activities, Brooks was a director of the Norwalk Hospital Association

for a number of years, a benefactor of Principia College, Elmhurst, Ill., to which he donated the Marshall Brooks Library in memory of his son and Brooks dormitory in memory of his daughter, Priscilla Wadsworth, and a contributor to a number of other institutions, including Bowdoin College and the First Church of Christ, Scientist, Boston. He was a member of the Norwalk and Shore Haven country clubs, the Yale, Lawyers, and New York Yacht clubs of New York City, and the Corinthian Yacht Club of Marblehead, Mass. In religion he was a Christian Scientist. Politically he was a Republican. His principal recreational interests were yachting and tennis, and in connection with the latter he won many cups, including the national championship and the Maine championship at Bar Harbor. He was married in Girard, Ohio, June 21, 1905, to Macy Morris, daughter of Henry Clay Marshall of that place, a business executive, and had four children: Alexander Marshall and Peter Wadsworth (both died in infancy), Priscilla Wadsworth, and Marshall. Percival W. Brooks died in San Marino, Calif., Mar. 6, 1959.



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*Percival W. Brooks*

NOTE to me – Percy Brooks was one of the founders of the P.W. Brooks “securities firm” – was married to Mary Morris Marshall in 1905 (who was “Betty and Warner Sr.’s sister). They married in Ohio, which ties to the fact that WM Jr.’s father had been in natural gas companies in Ohio prior to moving to the NY area.

Brooks and his wife were also close to Warner Marshall as his loved “Uncle Percy and Aunt Mary”