

Biography of Claire S. Andrus

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Claire S. Andrus

Claire S. Andrus was a local Prohibition Party politician, small businessman, and Prohibition Party candidate for State Assembly in 1917.¹ Claire Stephen Andrus was born on December 27, 1867, in Bolivar, New York. He was the son of Richard LaGrange Andrus and Harriet Amelia (Thomas) Andrus. He grew up in Bolivar and received his early education at local schools. He then went on to study at Alfred University and Lima Seminary.²

Claire S. Andrus began a career as a men's clothing merchant. He began working at the Blue Front Clothing Store in Bolivar; which was ran his father, his brother, and himself. Claire would go on to become the sole owner of the clothing shop by the early 1900s. In 1904, he built a new cement brick building for the store. By 1907, he was advertising the store in local newspapers under his own name.³

Claire S. Andrus married his first wife, Francis Bell Kenyon in November 1890. They had two children: Claire Kenyon Andrus (1893-1918) and Eugenia A. Andrus (1899-1970).⁴ He had acquired his own house in Bolivar sometime before 1900 and had fully paid it off by 1910.⁵

Andrus was an involved member of his local community. He became the Bolivar Methodist Episcopal Church sometime around 1889 and remained active for the rest of his life. At some point, he had served as chairman of the board of trustees for the church and as district steward. In 1924, he headed a building committee that oversaw the renovation and modernization of the congregation's main

¹ James Malcom, Ed., *The New York Red Book 1918*, (Albany: J.B. Lyon Company, 1918), <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=umn.31951d026343075&seq=7>, 482; "To the Voters of Allegany County", *Wellsville Daily Reporter*, (Wellsville, New York), October 29, 1917, <https://newspaperarchive.com/wellsville-daily-reporter-oct-29-1917-p-4/>; "Claire Stephen Andrus", *FamilySearch.org*, Accessed, April 10, 2024, <https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/details/LYLD-FCN>; "Claire Stephen Andrus (1868-1939)", *Find a Grave*, Accessed, April 10, 2024, https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/145065940/claire_stephen_andrus; "C.S. Andrus Dies Suddenly at Home", *Bolivar Breeze*, (Bolivar, New York), March 30, 1939, <https://newspaperarchive.com/bolivar-breeze-mar-30-1939-p-1/>; "Bolivar", *Allegany County Reporter*, (Wellsville, New York), November 10, 1911, <https://newspaperarchive.com/wellsville-allegany-county-reporter-nov-10-1911-p-6/>

² "Claire Stephen Andrus", *FamilySearch.org*; "Claire Stephen Andrus (1868-1939)", *Find a Grave*; "C.S. Andrus Dies Suddenly at Home", *Bolivar Breeze*

³ "Claire Stephen Andrus", *FamilySearch.org*; "C.S. Andrus Dies Suddenly at Home", *Bolivar Breeze*; "We Are Now Ready", *Bolivar Breeze*, (Bolivar, New York), March 21, 1907, <https://newspaperarchive.com/bolivar-breeze-mar-21-1907-p-23/>; "Clothing for Young Men and Children", *Bolivar Breeze*, (Bolivar, New York), May 23, 1907, <https://newspaperarchive.com/bolivar-breeze-may-23-1907-p-12/>; "Our Overcoats and Our Suits", *Bolivar Breeze*, (Bolivar, New York), September 24, 1908, <https://newspaperarchive.com/bolivar-breeze-sep-24-1908-p-23/>; "To Remodel the M.E. Church Building at Cost of \$15,000", *Bolivar Breeze*, (Bolivar, New York), May 22, 1924, <https://newspaperarchive.com/bolivar-breeze-may-22-1924-p-1/>

⁴ "Claire Stephen Andrus", *FamilySearch.org*; "Claire Stephen Andrus (1868-1939)", *Find a Grave*; "C.S. Andrus Dies Suddenly at Home", *Bolivar Breeze*

⁵ "Claire Stephen Andrus", *FamilySearch.org*; "Claire Kenyon Andrus", *FamilySearch.org*, Accessed, April 10, 2024, <https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/details/L2VD-GV1>; "Claire Stephen Andrus (1868-1939)", *Find a Grave*; "C.S. Andrus Dies Suddenly at Home", *Bolivar Breeze*

church building.⁶ He was involved with social groups, such as the Macedonia Lodge and the Free and Accepted Masons Lodge 258.⁷

Andrus was involved with the local Prohibition Party in Bolivar and Allegany County, by the 1890s. In 1896, Andrus was the Prohibition Party candidate for Town Clerk in Bolivar. He received 58 votes (12.06%) and came in third place out of four candidates.⁸ In 1901, he ran for town clerk for a second time. He received 58 votes (11.67%) and came in 3rd place to Democrat candidate William L. Nichols and Republican candidate T.C. McGrath.⁹ In 1911, he ran for Town Clerk for a third time. He received 66 votes (13.50%) and came in third place to Republican candidate Albert J. Matson and votes and Democrat William. L. Nichols.¹⁰

Andrus was nominated as the Prohibition Party candidate for Allegany County Clerk in 1912. He was in a five-way race with Republican candidate Delbert P. Snyder of Cuba, Democratic candidate Sumner B. Tuttle of Scio, Progressive candidate John N. Kroh, and Socialist candidate A.R. Minard of Belmont. Snyder would end up being elected.¹¹ It is uncertain what the exact vote results for Andrus in this race were. Available newspaper sources only show the countywide vote totals for the Republican, Democratic, and Progressive tickets. For town-level results, the full results for all candidates are reported for 18 towns, while the remainder only show the results for the Republican, Democratic, and Progressive tickets. Andrus received 339 votes from those 18 towns and an unknown number of votes from the other 11 towns.¹² Prohibition Party candidates for president, statewide offices, and state assembly in 1912 had received between 449-497 votes in Allegany County. Results from the 18 fully reported towns indicate that there wasn't much variation in the vote totals for Prohibition Party candidates for different offices.¹³ Based on this information, it appears likely that Andrus' vote totals were somewhere between 400-500 votes, and he likely came in 4th place behind Snyder, Tuttle, and Kroh.¹⁴

⁶ "C.S. Andrus Dies Suddenly at Home", *Bolivar Breeze*; "Historical Sketch of Bolivar Methodist Church", *Olean Times Herald*, (Olean, New York), February 25, 1941, <https://newspaperarchive.com/olean-times-herald-feb-25-1941-p-5/>

⁷ "Late Local News", *Bolivar Breeze*, (Bolivar, New York), November 17, 1932, <https://newspaperarchive.com/bolivar-breeze-nov-17-1932-p-15/>; "C.S. Andrus Dies Suddenly at Home", *Bolivar Breeze*

⁸ "Republicans Made a Clean Sweep", *Bolivar Breeze*, (Bolivar, New York), March 6, 1896, <https://newspaperarchive.com/bolivar-breeze-mar-06-1896-p-10/>

⁹ "Results in the County: The Vote in Detail in Neighboring Towns", *Allegany County Reporter*, (Wellsville, New York), March 8, 1901, <https://newspaperarchive.com/wellsville-allegany-county-reporter-mar-08-1901-p-4/>

¹⁰ "Bolivar", *Allegany County Reporter*

¹¹ "Prohibition Candidates", *Rushford Spectator*, (Rushford, New York), September 5, 1912, <https://newspaperarchive.com/rushford-spectator-sep-05-1912-p-1/>; Allegany Town Vote", *Allegany County Reporter*, (Wellsville, New York), November 8, 1912,

<https://newspaperarchive.com/wellsville-allegany-county-reporter-nov-08-1912-p-5/>; "New County Clerk", *Allegany County Reporter*, (Wellsville, New York), December 31, 1912, [https://nyshistoricnewspapers.org/?a=d&d=talr19121231-01.1.4&srpos=13&e=----191-en-20-1-txt-txIN-Snyder+clerk---1912---Allegany-](https://nyshistoricnewspapers.org/?a=d&d=talr19121231-01.1.4&srpos=13&e=----191-en-20-1-txt-txIN-Snyder+clerk---1912---Allegany-;);

"Democratic Ticket", *Angelica Advocate*, (Angelica, New York), August 29, 1912, [https://nyshistoricnewspapers.org/?a=d&d=ang19120829-01.1.2&srpos=6&e=----191-en-20-1-txt-txIN-Tuttle+clerk---1912---Allegany-](https://nyshistoricnewspapers.org/?a=d&d=ang19120829-01.1.2&srpos=6&e=----191-en-20-1-txt-txIN-Tuttle+clerk---1912---Allegany-;);

"The Bull Moosers Met in Belmont", *Whitesville News*, (Whitesville, New York), September 12, 1912, [https://nyshistoricnewspapers.org/?a=d&d=whin19120912-01.1.1&srpos=12&e=----191-en-20-1-txt-txIN-Kroh+clerk---1912---Allegany-](https://nyshistoricnewspapers.org/?a=d&d=whin19120912-01.1.1&srpos=12&e=----191-en-20-1-txt-txIN-Kroh+clerk---1912---Allegany-;);

"To the Voters of Allegany County", *Wellsville Daily Reporter*, (Wellsville, New York), November 4, 1912, <https://newspaperarchive.com/wellsville-daily-reporter-nov-04-1912-p-7/>

¹² "The Vote in Allegany County", *Wellsville Daily Reporter*, (Wellsville, New York), November 6, 1912, <https://newspaperarchive.com/wellsville-daily-reporter-nov-06-1912-p-1/>; "The Vote in Allegany County: Complete Vote in Allegany County", *Allegany County Reporter*, (Wellsville, New York), November 8, 1912, <https://newspaperarchive.com/wellsville-allegany-county-reporter-nov-08-1912-p-3/>; "Allegany Town Vote", *Allegany County Reporter*; "Wellsville's Vote", *Allegany County Reporter*, (Wellsville, New York), November 8, 1912,

<https://newspaperarchive.com/wellsville-allegany-county-reporter-nov-08-1912-p-3/>

¹³ Edgar R. Murlin, Ed. *The New York Red Book 1913*, (Albany: J.B. Lyon Company, 1913), <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=umn.31951d02634302f&seq=803>, 660-692

¹⁴ "The Vote in Allegany County", *Wellsville Daily Reporter*; "The Vote in Allegany County: Complete Vote in Allegany County", *Allegany County Reporter*; "Allegany Town Vote", *Allegany County Reporter*; "Wellsville's Vote", *Allegany County Reporter*; "New County Clerk", *Allegany County*

In 1915, the local Democratic Party decided to nominate Andrus as its candidate for Bolivar Village President against the 3rd term Republican incumbent J. Alvia Wilber. He came in 2nd place, with 96 votes (39.18%) to Wilber's 149, and Wilber was reelected to a 4th term.¹⁵

In 1917, the Allegany County Prohibition Party nominated Andrus as its candidate for State Assembly. He ran in a four-way race against Republican candidate William Duke Jr. of Wellsville, Democratic candidate Forest M. Carpenter of Belmont, and Socialist candidate F.A. Loop of Bolivar. Andrus received 458 votes (6.23%) and came in 3rd place to Duke and Carpenter.¹⁶

After the Assembly election, Andrus returned to his regular life as a local businessman and community member.¹⁷ In 1918, his son Clair Kenyon Andrus died from influenza in France, while serving in the U.S. Army in World War I. In 1921, his son was returned from France and buried with military honors in Bolivar.¹⁸ In 1922, Andrus retired from running his men's clothing shop. While retired, he continued to be involved with the community and by 1931 was a stockholder in the Union Pipe Line Company (which ran an oil pipeline through the area).¹⁹ In 1931, his first wife, Francis Bell (Kenyon) Andrus died. He married his second wife, Edna Browning (Hall Perry) Andrus in 1933. They were married for the remainder of his life.²⁰

Claire S. Andrus died of a heart attack on March 28, 1939. He was survived by his second wife Edna, his daughter Eugenia, brother R.N. Andrus, half-brother Don T. Andrus, and his granddaughter Frances Williams.²¹ He left behind an estate, including a house worth \$5,000 and \$5,000 in cash.²² A funeral service was held at his home. He was buried in Maple Lawn Cemetery, in Bolivar, New York.²³ In

Reporter; "Democratic Ticket", *Angelica Advocate*; "The Bull Moosers Met in Belmont", *Whitesville News*; "To the Voters of Allegany County", *Wellsville Daily Reporter*, November 4, 1912

¹⁵ "The Republican Ticket Elected", *Bolivar Breeze*, (Bolivar, New York), March 16, 1915, <https://newspaperarchive.com/bolivar-breeze-mar-18-1915-p-1/>

¹⁶ Malcom, *The New York Red Book 1918*, 482; "NY Assembly - Allegany Race - Nov 06, 1917", *Our Campaigns*, Accessed, April 10, 2024, <https://www.ourcampaigns.com/RaceDetail.html?RaceID=776402>; Lawrence Kestenbaum, "Index to Politicians: Andrey to Anthonis", *The Political Graveyard*, Accessed, April 10, 2024, <https://politicalgraveyard.com/bio/andridge-anstine.html#156.15.73>; "To the Voters of Allegany County", *Wellsville Daily Reporter*, October 29, 1917r; "The Vote in Wellsville", *Wellsville Daily Reporter*, (Wellsville, New York), November 7, 1917, <https://newspaperarchive.com/wellsville-daily-reporter-nov-07-1917-p-3/>

¹⁷ Malcom, *The New York Red Book 1918*, 482; "Claire Stephen Andrus", *FamilySearch.org*; "Late Local News", *Bolivar Breeze*; "C.S. Andrus Dies Suddenly at Home", *Bolivar Breeze*

¹⁸ "Claire Kenyon Andrus", *FamilySearch.org*; "Claire Kenyon Andrus (1893-1918)", *Find a Grave*, Accessed, April 10, 2024, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/93449798/claire-kenyon-andrus>; "C.S. Andrus Dies Suddenly at Home", *Bolivar Breeze*; "Bolivar Young Man Dies of Pneumonia in France", *Bolivar Breeze*, (Bolivar, New York), December 5, 1918, <https://newspaperarchive.com/bolivar-breeze-dec-05-1918-p-1/>; "Buried Here With Military Honors", *Bolivar Breeze*, (Bolivar, New York), May 19, 1921, <https://newspaperarchive.com/bolivar-breeze-may-19-1921-p-1/>; "Personals", *Bolivar Breeze*, (Bolivar, New York), March 11, 1937, <https://newspaperarchive.com/bolivar-breeze-mar-11-1937-p-15/>; "To Remodel the M.E. Church Building at Cost of \$15,000", *Bolivar Breeze*

¹⁹ "Claire Stephen Andrus", *FamilySearch.org*; "Stockholders Hear Reports of Union Line", *Olean Evening Herald*, (Olean, New York), June 5, 1931, <https://newspaperarchive.com/olean-evening-herald-jun-05-1931-p-2/>; "C.S. Andrus Dies Suddenly at Home", *Bolivar Breeze*; "Personals", *Bolivar Breeze*; "Historical Sketch of Bolivar Methodist Church", *Olean Times Herald*; "To Remodel the M.E. Church Building at Cost of \$15,000", *Bolivar Breeze*

²⁰ "Claire Stephen Andrus", *FamilySearch.org*; "Claire Stephen Andrus (1868-1939)", *Find a Grave*; "C.S. Andrus Dies Suddenly at Home", *Bolivar Breeze*

²¹ "Claire Stephen Andrus", *FamilySearch.org*; "Claire Stephen Andrus (1868-1939)", *Find a Grave*; "Last Rites Held for C.S. Andrus", *Bolivar Breeze*, (Bolivar, New York), April 6, 1939, <https://newspaperarchive.com/bolivar-breeze-apr-06-1939-p-1/>; "C.S. Andrus Dies Suddenly at Home", *Bolivar Breeze*

²² "C.S. Andrus Dies Suddenly at Home", *Bolivar Breeze*; "A.C. Smythe Estate Willed to Daughter", *Bolivar Breeze*, (Bolivar, New York), April 13, 1939, <https://newspaperarchive.com/bolivar-breeze-apr-13-1939-p-1/>

²³ "Claire Stephen Andrus", *FamilySearch.org*; "Claire Stephen Andrus (1868-1939)", *Find a Grave*; "Last Rites Held for C.S. Andrus", *Bolivar Breeze*; "C.S. Andrus Dies Suddenly at Home", *Bolivar Breeze*

his life, Claire S. Andrus had been a local businessman, active community member, and local Prohibition Party politician, who spent his life contributing to the Bolivar community.²⁴

²⁴ Malcom, *The New York Red Book 1918*, 482; "Claire Stephen Andrus", *FamilySearch.org*; "Late Local News", *Bolivar Breeze*; "Republicans Made a Clean Sweep", *Bolivar Breeze*; "Last Rites Held for C.S. Andrus", *Bolivar Breeze*; "C.S. Andrus Dies Suddenly at Home", *Bolivar Breeze*

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