

[VanCampen, Hiram]

DEATH OF HIRAM VANCAMPEN

Died at New Bedford, Mass., March 23—Born in Belmont, N.Y.

The following, taken from the New Bedford (Mass.) Mercury, tells of the death on Wednesday, March 23rd, 1904 of Hiram VanCampen, a native of Belmont, and widely known and revered throughout this section.

"Hiram VanCampen died at his residence, 28 Arnold street, yesterday afternoon after a short illness. Mr. VanCampen was prominent in the insurance business of this city, having left the Universalist ministry to devote his time to that occupation. He was 86 years of age.

"Mr. VanCampen was born in Amity, Allegany county, New York, September 13, 1817. After a common school education he passed through an academy course in the English branches. Afterwards he served part of an apprenticeship in a carriage factory. He was not indentured. However, after passing two years in that business, he decided not to proceed further in it. What influenced him particularly in arriving at this decision was that fact that he became converted into a decided Universalist, much to the surprise of his family, who were Calvinist Baptists. His mind became set on becoming a Universalist minister, and eventually he did become one. He first preached in Phenix [Phoenix], N.Y., Oswego county. Then he went to Mexico where he settled for some little time, afterwards going to Portageville, Wyoming county, N.Y., then to Gainesville in the same county, and later to Middleport, Niagara county, N.Y. After leaving Middleport he went to Rockport on Cape Ann. He was there only about fourteen months, when he became afflicted with bronchitis in a severe form, and he came to this city to benefit his health. The change was so beneficial that it determined his residence in this city ever since his arrival here in 1851. He organized the first Universalist society here that year, but he resigned as its minister, after two years' service in that capacity, to devote himself entirely to the insurance business. Mr. VanCampen was a staunch Republican, and until within a few years back displayed an animated interest in national, state and municipal politics, allying himself in an influential manner with the temperance side in city politics. He was for a very long term of years president of the Central Union association and had been president of the board of fire underwriters since its organization. He also served in both branches of the city government.

"As an insurance agent Mr. VanCampen did an extensive business and was widely known. He leaves a widow and five children."

*Cuba Patriot*, Cuba NY, Thu. 7 Apr 1904