

[Ashley, William H.]

WILLIAM H. ASHLEY DROPPED DEAD
Stricken With Apoplexy in the Powers Building
Old-Time Expressman
Local Manager of the National Express Company for Many Years—
Born and Always Lived in Rochester

William H. Ashley, local manager of the National Express Company, and a life-long resident of Rochester, was stricken with apoplexy yesterday morning at 11 o'clock, in the real estate office of G. W. Palmer, No. 145 Powers building. He died almost immediately.

For some time Mr. Ashley had complained of not feeling well, but it was thought that the trouble was simply indigestion. Accompanied by his wife, he came down town yesterday morning, where he had some business to transact. He was apparently feeling as well as usual when he left home.

After parting from Mrs. Ashley in a store on State street, Mr. Ashley went to the office of Mr. Palmer. He stepped up to the office stenographer. He reached in his pocket after some papers, and was about to speak to the stenographer when he staggered, and fell to the floor. He struck the floor with such force that his nose was broken and his face and clothing were covered with blood.

A hurry call was sent in for the City Hospital ambulance. When the ambulance, in charge of Dr. Nugent, arrived, and the physician had made an examination, he announced that the man was dead from the result of a stroke of apoplexy. Coroner Kleindienst was immediately called. After learning the facts he granted a certificate of death from apoplexy.

As soon as it was found out that Mr. Ashley was dead, word was sent to his son, George Ashley, cashier of the National Express Company, and he immediately came to the office where his father's body was. At his suggestion word was sent to Rev. L. H. Squires, pastor of the First Universalist Church, of which the deceased was a member, and Mr. Squires was asked to notify Mrs. Ashley.

In the meantime Mrs. Ashley had remained in the store on State street and had seen the ambulance draw up to the Powers building. She seemed to realize that something was wrong with her husband, and she asked an acquaintance if the ambulance was not for Mr. Ashley, remarking that she felt that it was. When she was told of the sudden death of her husband she was completely prostrated, and was immediately taken home. Word was sent to the other son, William Ashley, of Buffalo, and he came to Rochester on the Empire State Express.

[Ashley, William H.]

Mr. Ashley was born in this city sixty years ago and had always resided here. When a boy he entered the employ of the Central-Hudson Railroad Company, then the New York Central, and after remaining there several years the National Express Company was organized in this city. He entered the service of this company and remained with the corporation for thirty-three years.

The Rochester branch of the company was abandoned several years ago, and then Mr. Ashley became connected with the United States Express Company. He was afterward connected with the Buffalo branch of the National Express Company, and about seven years ago he became the manager of the Rochester branch of the National Express which was established here.

Mr. Ashley was a member of the Expressmen's Mutual Benefit Association and for many years had been a prominent member of the First Universalist Church.

The deceased resided at No. 72 Pierpont avenue, and leaves a wife and two sons, George of this city and William of Buffalo.

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Transcribed on 10 Jan 2008 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY