

[Bergener, Charles]

CHARLES BERGENER, LANTERN MAN, DIES
Revolutionized Industry by Invention Years Ago

Charles Bergener, for many years associated with the C. T. Ham Manufacturing Company, in the manufacture of kerosene lanterns, died Monday in this city, aged 70 years, following an illness that forced him to retire from business about ten years ago.

He was the inventor of the cold blast lantern that many years ago revolutionized the kerosene lantern industry, and designed the first oil lamps used on automobiles, in the early days of that industry.

Born in Hanover, Germany, in 1853, he was brought to this country by his parents when he was but six months old. At the age of 13, he entered the employ of the Dennis and Wheeler Company, of Chicago, and later worked for the Adams and Westlake Company. In 1881 he came to this city and helped organize the Steam Guage [sic] and Lantern Company, remaining there until a short time before the plant was destroyed by fire in 1887. Then, in company with C. T. Ham, George Ham, and John Orphy, he formed the C. T. Ham Manufacturing Company, that was located on Parkway until its absorption by the Dixie Lantern Company, of Syracuse.

He was a member of Genesee Falls Lodge, Monroe Commandery, Knights Templar and Damascus Temple. He also was a member of the Mannerchor, the Liederkranz and other German societies.

He leaves three daughters, Mrs. F. A. Brotsch, Jr., Mrs. W. Howe Kiefer and Mrs. A. S. McDowell, all of this city, and a brother, Lewis Bergener, of Chicago.

Democrat and Chronicle, Rochester NY, Wed. 19 Mar 1924

[Bergener, Charles]

MR. CHARLES BERGENER

Charles Bergener, an old friend of the Church, passed from this life March 17th at the home of his daughter, Mrs. W. Howe Kiefer, 246 Park Ave. Mr. [Rev. William Wallace] Rose [Universalist] conducted services Thursday, March 20th, assisted by the Monroe Commandery. Interment was in Riverside. Mr. Bergener leaves a very devoted and sorrowing family who have tenderly cared for him during an illness of many years duration. Always a hard worker, a faithful son to his mother and later a very devoted husband and father, Mr. Bergener leaves many friends. Although many of his days have been spent in pain, he was bright and cheerful to the end, and of incurable faith. Our sympathy is extended to the children, Mr. Charles W. Bergener, Mrs. F. [Frederick] A. [Claribel] Brotsch, Mrs. Andrew MacDowell, and Mrs. W. Howe [Alice] Kiefer.

Our Outlook, First Universalist Church, Rochester NY, Fri. 28 Mar 1924

Transcribed on 25 Aug 2012 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY