

[Davenport, Walter Austin]

DROWNED IN THE CANAL
Austin Davenport Drawn Under a Passing Canal Boat—
His Body Not Yet Recovered

Austin Davenport, aged 13 years, the son of T. W. Davenport of New Main street, was drowned in the canal between 4:30 and 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon. Young Davenport with several other boys were in swimming at Carpenter's quarry, so called, in the canal. Davenport attempted to "stem," as the boys call it, [dive under] a passing boat. The suction of the water drew his body under the boat and that was the last seen of the unfortunate lad. His clothing was found on the bank by his father who was shortly notified. The deceased was a JOURNAL carrier and inquiry was made at this office concerning him in hopes that he may have been taken on the boat and let off at the Guard Locks. Men have been at work dragging the canal and others have dived searching the bottom. A Buffalo tug spent considerable time in stirring up the water from the locks up to where the boy first disappeared, but with no avail. At noon to-day the old practice of firing over the water to bring a body to the top was resorted to.

Lockport Daily Journal, Lockport NY, Wed. 8 Jun 1887

Transcribed on 15 Dec 2012 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY

[Davenport, Walter Austin]

WALTER AUSTIN DAVENPORT

According to the announcement in our Saturday's issue the funeral of Walter Austin Davenport , who lost his life in the Erie canal of Tuesday, June 7, 1887 took place yesterday. A short service was held at the house of his family on New Main street at one o'clock by the pastor of the family. The mournful cortege then moved to the Universalist Church, which was packed to its utmost capacity, several hundred sympathizing friends being unable to gain admittance. The church was profusely decorated with white flowers, emblems of innocence, worked into every conceivable shape, comprising crosses, crowns, anchors and pyramids. The choir opened with a touching hymn selected by the family. The service was continued by the use of the ritual, with responses by pastor and choir, which were very appropriate and impressive. After a touching prayer, Rev. G. [George] W. Powell took his text from the II book of Samuel, xii chap., 23 verse: "Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he will not return to me."

His hopeful and cheering remarks were all that could be desired on the occasion. In Cold Spring Cemetery, where Austin's body was interred, the grave was lined with evergreens and flowers. The beautiful little casket that contained the jewel so deeply mourned, seemed to rest under a bower of overhanging beauty.

At the foot of the grave stood a beautiful iron urn filled with living flowers, which had been placed there by the thoughtful and loving hands of children who had been Austin's happy playmates.

Everything was done by the teachers and members of the Sunday School to which Austin belonged, and also by the numerous friends and neighbors to make the dark hours of bereavement as bright as love and sympathy could make them, for which the family feel profoundly grateful.

Lockport Daily Journal, Lockport NY, Mon. 13 Jun 1887