

[Gilbert, Horace B.]

PERSONAL—Mrs. David Bidlake, of Weedsport, daughter of the late Horace B. Gilbert, accompanied with her husband, and Misses Caddie and Emma Gilbert, attending school at Rochester, are in town on the occasion of the funeral of their father.

Evening Auburnian, Auburn NY, Mon, 14 Jan 1878

DEATH OF HORACE B. GILBERT

Death seldom brings a greater or more general shock than that occasioned by the sudden decease of our esteemed friend and fellow townsman, Horace B. Gilbert, Esq. He had been enjoying unusually good health in months past, until Thursday, when he was suffering from a severe cold and remained at home after attending to his early morning duties at the post office. The attack was not considered serious, and was unattended by any suffering.

Arising at about 4 o'clock Friday morning, he sat down upon the edge of the bed, and immediately fell back with a gasp and expired, presumably from heart disease. His noble heart ceased to beat, and the genial spirit was rendered back to its Giver, leaving a stricken family to mourn the loss of their best earthly friend and protector.

Mr. Gilbert was one of our best known citizens, and had an unusually wide acquaintance through the circumstance of his having been an attaché of the post office for an almost unbroken period of forty years past. He was born in Throopsville, Jan. 7, 1822, his fifty-sixth birthday occurring on Monday last. He became connected with the post office in 1837, under postmaster Hiram Bostwick. His good habits, industry and pleasant disposition invariably won the respect of his superiors and associates in office. A corresponding reputation for skill and efficiency always continued to make him a valuable official in the postal service, where his retention as Chief Clerk was considered almost a matter of fact through whatever change of administration might occur. Modest and unassuming in his official capacity, his interests were not pushed in proportion to his deserts in the service, although his friends often suggested the propriety of his advancement to the postmastership, but without effect. His final promotion to the position of Assistant Postmaster, upon the incumbency of Noah P. Clark, Esq., through the last change of administration, was a gratifying recognition of true merit.

The sad and sudden decease of our beloved friend falls with terrible weight upon an aged mother, the stricken wife and daughters, the latter being from home, one with her husband and family and the others at school in Rochester... They have the deepest sympathy in their bereavement, with the assurance that scores of warm hearts are mourning with them the loss of the indulgent father, the loving husband, and dutiful son.

News and Democrat, Auburn NY, Thu. 17 Jan 1878

[Gilbert, Horace B.]

FUNERAL OF THE LATE H. B. GILBERT

The last sad offices were performed yesterday, in consigning to their final earthly rest the remains of our esteemed and lamented townsman, the late Horace B. Gilbert. His long extended connection with the duties of the postoffice had made him known to almost the entire community, where his genial nature had endeared him to all with whom he came in contact in the friendly relations of life.

The funeral services at the Universalist church, with which Society he had been connected since his youthful days, were attended by a concourse of people who filled the entire house, many being unable to obtain seats.

Prayer was said at the family residence on Court street, by Rev. L. L. Briggs, where the immediate friends assembled in large numbers, together with the Masonic Fraternity of which Mr. Gilbert was a member. The ceremonies were in charge of St. Paul's Lodge, assisted by Auburn Lodge. The Lodges, as escort, were drawn up at the street entrance, in double line, facing inward, through which the casket was borne to the hearse, the same order being afterward observed at the church. The Fraternity were in regalia, with the emblematic sprig of evergreen to be cast into the grave at the conclusion of the burial service.

The casket was of chestnut, with raised top, covered with a combination of velvet and broadcloth, ebony mouldings were so placed as to form panels, giving a rich but sombre effect, while the interior was richly upholstered in white satin throughout, the upper portion covered with similar material, heavily quilted, and decorated with broad silk fringe. Heavily plated handles, with ebony bar, and ebony urns capped with silver, completed the details of a tasteful casket such as the fond but stricken hearts at home desired to furnish as the last act of love for the dear one who rested within.

The postoffice was closed during the services, in respect to the memory of the departed officer who had so long and so well discharged its responsible duties. Post Master N. P. Clark and the entire force of attaches attended the services in a body, occupying a position next in rear of the Trustees of the First Universalist Society, at the head of the procession.

At the church there was a collection of rich floral tributes from friends, including large crosses, crowns, star, anchor, wreaths, and basket, contributed by Post Master Clark, E. P. Rost, Esq., the attaches of the postoffice, and others.

The services at the church, at which the pastor Rev. L. L. Briggs officiated, were the most solemn and affecting. Appropriate passages from the Psalms were read, and touching allusions made as to the worth of the departed, whose noble character was justly eulogized in fitting terms.

The following gentlemen acted as pall-bearers: Robert Peat, Kendrick Vail, George N. Lounsbury, Wesley M. Niblock, Adelbert Graves, [and] R. N. Hudson.

The burial was conducted with Masonic rites, at Fort Hill Cemetery.

News and Democrat, Auburn NY, Thu. 17 Jan 1878