

[Griffith, Isaac J.]

ISAAC J. GRIFFITH

Former Active Business Man, Well Known and Respected, Died Saturday

Isaac J. Griffith, the promoter of the Utica Belt Line Street Railroad Company and builder of many of the electric lines that now pass through the streets of this city, died at the home of his son, 14 Greenwood Court, Saturday evening. He had been in failing health for several weeks, but he had been confined to his bed for only a few days. Until recent years, when he led a retired life, Mr. Griffith was an active factor in the life of the city and (ability?) as a business man and an organizer. His death will be mourned by many who found him a man of splendid character and pleasing personality.

Mr. Griffith was born in New York Mills, May 2, 1841. He received his education in the Advanced School and the Utica Academy, graduating from the latter before the Civil War commenced. Upon leaving school he became a clerk in a shoe store conducted by George Lewis. For a number of years he was engaged in clerical work in this city and later in New York. He finally returned to Utica and entered the shoe business. He retired from this after a short time and was engaged in various capacities until (1888?).

In that year he organized the Utica Belt Line Street Railroad Company, a corporation which purchased the old Utica [unreadable line] interests. Franchises were secured and in the face of great opposition tracks were laid on Blandina, Union and Lafayette streets and at certain places in West Utica. Mr. Griffith remained a director in the company until the control of interest was secured by Charles W. Mather of this city and his associates. Mr. Griffith then disposed of his stock and bonds and retired.

Mr. Griffith was a Republican in politics. He was a member of the Utica [?] and attended the Universalist Church. In July, 1869, he married Miss Lois Oatley, daughter of the late Lyman Oatley. Mr. Griffith is survived by one son, Percival Griffith of this city, and by a grandson, Robert Griffith.

*Utica Observer*, Utica NY, Mon. 23 Aug 1915  
[poor copy]

Isaac J. Griffith

The funeral of Isaac J. Griffith was held in his late home, 14 Greenwood Court, this afternoon at 3 o'clock with the Rev. George Cross Baner [Universalist] officiating. Members of the family acted as bearers and the interment was made in Forest Hill Cemetery.

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