

[Hayes, William E.]

William E. Hayes, the oldest native born Genevan, died this morning 8:30 o'clock at his home, No. 292 Castle street. The deceased was born January 31, 1831, and has lived here throughout his life. Last February he was taken with a severe cold, and while he recovered from the acute disease, it left him weak and he has been in declining health since that time. About three months ago he was obliged to give up his lifelong trade of tin-smithing and has since been living a retired life. Besides being the oldest native born citizen, Mr. Hayes was the oldest Mason of the city and also one of the oldest Masons in the state. He joined Ark Lodge, No. 33, F. & A. M., in 1845 and for more than a half century had been in good standing with the order. In 1847 he became a Knight Templar by joining Geneva Commandery, No. 29, Knights Templar. He was also a member of the Eastern Star, with his membership dating back to 1891. While he was thus identified with various Masonic organizations he always shrank from honors and throughout his long membership, he never held an important Masonic office. For many years Mr. Hayes conducted a general repair shop on Castle street and had the reputation of being a faithful workman. From early life he was a member of the First Universalist church and had repeatedly served the church as a trustee. The funeral will take place Wednesday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock from the Universalist church. Burial will be in Glenwood Cemetery.

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Transcribed on 15 Mar 2008 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY