

[Higgins, Joseph Smith]

PASSING OF JOSEPH S. HIGGINS
Popular Utican Had Lived Most of His Life Here—
Died Early This Morning

Joseph Smith Higgins, known to hundreds of Uticans as "Joe," died this morning at 7:30 o'clock at the family home, 22 Pearl street, following an illness which had confined him to his bed since January 28. Death was due to a complication of diseases. Mr. Higgins was born in Fonda, March 11, 1852, the son of (Cline?) and Margaret Higgins. His father operated a freight barge between Albany and New York and was killed in the latter city when the deceased was 18 months old. Soon afterward Mrs. Higgins came to this city with her son and he had lived here since that time. He was educated in the local schools and, through a kind and sunny disposition, made a large circle of friends, which grew as the years increased.

In 1876, Mr. Higgins entered the employ of the American Express Company as superintendent of the day transfer, and remained there until 1887. He then went with the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad Co. as a detective and remained with that corporation for (15?) years. Two years ago he was appointed a night watchman at the Utica Masonic Home and held that position at the time of his death.

Mr. Higgins was a member of Faxton Lodge No. 697, F. & A. M., having joined it 26 years ago. He was also a member of Imperial Council No. 70, Royal Arcanum, which he joined 25 years ago, and was a member of the Immediate Relief of the same council. He was a prominent member of the Exempt Fireman's Association and was also a member of the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Mutual Aid Association. In religious faith, he was a Universalist.

[On] October 11, 1876, Mr. Higgins was married in this city to Miss Lydia Smith and is survived by her. He also leaves one son and two sisters, who are Joseph Smith Higgins, Jr., of Chicago, Mrs. Richard Roberts of Utica and Miss Belle Higgins of Independence, Mo. Mr. Higgins was a man whose popularity had stood the test of time and his death will be a cause of great sorrow to all who knew him.

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