

[Hopkins, Noble]

The Burning of the Genesee Flats Yesterday Morning

IT WAS A TERRIBLE HOLOCAUST

Sleeping Inmates Were in Deadly Peril

FOUR LIVES WERE LOST

Sixty Families Rendered Homeless—Losses Will Reach Nearly Half a Million—Many Thrilling Escapes—
An Aged Woman Dashed to Death on the Pavement and Three Persons Perish in the Flames—
Full Story of a Disaster Unequaled in the Annals of Central New York.

There is no doubt as to the death of Noble Hopkins, another tenant on the seventh floor. Mr. Hopkins was in his 69th year. During the evening he visited with his daughter, Mrs. Minnie A. Rutter, on a floor below. About ten o'clock he returned to his apartment. As far as can be ascertained, this was the last seen of Mr. Hopkins. He probably was quickly overcome by the smoke. Mr. Hopkins was born in Vermont. For several years he was engaged in the boot and shoe business in this city, and was a member of Utica lodge, No. 47, F. and A. M. and the commercial travelers' association. He leaves a daughter, Mrs. Rutter.

Morning Herald and Daily Gazette, Utica NY, Wed. 4 Mar 1896 [small excerpt]

NOBLE HOPKINS' FUNERAL [abridged]

It Is Largely Attended—An Appropriate Eulogy by Rev. J. F. Leland

The Church of the Reconciliation was packed to the entrance yesterday afternoon when the funeral of Noble Hopkins was held. A number were unable to gain admission. Utica Lodge, No. 47, F. & A. M., of which the deceased had been a member, attended in a body and many representatives of other lodges were present. Altogether there were about 150 Masons bearing the insignia of their orders in attendance...

The funeral service of the Universalist church was conducted by Rev. J. Frank Leland [who lived in the same building and lost all his possessions in the same fire]. His remarks, while brief, were appropriate and impressive... How glad we all were, said the speaker, when leaving the ruins on the fatal morning of March 3, to hear that all had been saved, and how sad we were to learn later that there was a suspicion that some were still in the ruins, a suspicion that became a certainty when the body was found...

The pastor paid a handsome tribute to Mr. Hopkins' memory, who was, he said, a man highly respected in both the business and social world. He was a life-long Universalist and a man whose strong individuality made his influence felt in the Church of the Reconciliation, to which he was always a liberal giver. The deepest sympathy of church and congregation, said the pastor, goes out to the family of the deceased in their sudden and terrible affliction....

The interment was in Forest Hill Cemetery and the ceremony was Masonic in character, Robert Dodd of the Utica Lodge, rendering the service. The bearers were Benjamin Allen, [Elmo?] C. Brown, Thomas Chapman, Eugene B. Hastings, Daniel McGucken and C. F. Glatt.

Daily Press, Utica NY, Mon. 15 Mar 1895