

## [Kimball, Smith B.]

### WHAT KILLED HIM?

#### The Strange Death of Smith B. Kimball

Falling Under a Train, He Shows no Injuries but a Broken Arm, but is Picked up Dec'd.

An accident of a distressing nature occurred at Moravia at 10:45 this morning, whereby Southern Central freight train conductor Smith B. Kimball of this city lost his life. Conductor Kimball and his crew were busily engaged in shifting cars on the branch track about one hundred yards below the depot. One of the brakemen, Fred Shaeffer, was at the switch and another trainman, Timothy W. O'Connor, stood on the main track. Kimball had pulled the pin between two box cars and as they separated[,] O'Connor and Schaefer were horrified to see him fall upon the track before the moving car. Whether he fell from the top of the car[,] or just in what manner the accident happened, neither of the trainmen can tell. As soon as they saw him fall both men ran to his assistance. They found him lying under the car, two wheels of which had passed over his arm above the wrist, mangling it so that the bones protruded. No other injuries were apparent but it took but a slight examination to reveal the fact that the unfortunate man was dead. His neck, it was declared, had been broken by the fall.

The news of the calamity was telegraphed to Auburn and a coach was attached to the 11 o'clock train and sent to Moravia with orders for the abandonment of the freight train and the return of the engine and crew with the remains. As the nearest coroner resided in Kelloggsville, and both the witnesses of the accident were residents of Auburn, it was thought advisable to have the body brought here where an inquest could more readily be held, which was done, the special arriving at the Washington street depot at 1:30 this afternoon, where the remains were taken in charge by undertaker Dean and conveyed to his rooms, Coroner Baker being notified, meanwhile.

Smith B. Kimball was about 53 years of age<sup>1</sup> and resided with his family at 70 Orchard street. He leaves a wife and five children: Irving E. Kimball, a southern Central freight conductor; Mrs. Frank C. Stringham, Charles H. Kimball and two younger children, a girl and a boy. [A son, Herbert B. Kimball, had predeceased in in 1870.]

He was an active secret society man belonging to the Knights of Honor, the Order of United Friends, the Iron Hall and Improved Order of Red Men. In the United Friends he had \$3,000 insurance, in the Knights of Honor, \$2,000, and in the Iron Hall, \$600.

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<sup>1</sup> He was 47, per his gravestone.

[Kimball, Smith B.]

### Smith Kimball's Funeral

The Remains Accompanied to the Grave by Society Delegations

The funeral of Smith B. Kimball occurred as announced at the family residence, 70 Orchard street, yesterday morning, a short service being held, Rev. J. J. [Jay Jenkins] Brayton [Universalist] officiating. The remains, with the mourning family and friends consisting of fellow employe[e]s and members of the several secret and benevolent organizations to which the deceased belonged, embarked on a special car and were drawn by the Southern Central train to Owego, from whence the funeral cortege proceeded to Appalachin, about seven miles distant where the interment took place in the family burying ground, after an impressive service conducted by Rev. Mr. Brayton. The pall bearers were Robert Hazlitt and J. W. Talladay of the United Friends, H. P. Cole and W. H. Holmes of the Knights of Honor, Edwin Downer of the Logan Tribe of Red Men and L. F. Howell of the Iron Hall.

The floral tributes were "The Gates Ajar" from the Southern Central employe[e]s, an initial pillow from the United Friends composed of roses and immortelles, a shield from the Knights of Honor, wrought in the three colors of the order, red, white and yellow, a horseshoe from a friend and a broken column from the schoolmates of Smith Kimball, Jr. At Moravia members of the Cayuga Tribe of Red Men boarded the train and offered their tribute, a handsome bouquet of flowers.

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