

[Perkins, James Dudley]

JAMES D. PERKINS DEAD

Veteran Coal Merchant Succumbs to Heart Disease.

Formerly Lived in Brooklyn, but of Late Years Made His Home in New Rochelle.

James Dudley Perkins, long a prominent citizen of Brooklyn and president of the Perkins Coal Company of Manhattan, died this morning at his home, 123 Woodland avenue, New Rochelle, N.Y., of heart disease.

Mr. Perkins was born in Salem, Mass., February 13, 1828, the second son of Ezra and Mary Cole Perkins. He was directly descended from John Perkins, sr., who settled in Massachusetts on 5, February 1611, sailing from England in the ship Lyon. James Dudley Perkins was of the seventh generation. He owed his middle name to Thomas Dudley, second governor of Massachusetts, whose grandson John Bradstreet married Sarah Perkins, thus uniting the families of Dudley, Bradstreet and Perkins, from which stock sprung David Dudley Field, Oliver Wendell Holmes, and Wendell Phillips.

The early business life of Mr. Perkins was spent in Boston, he becoming a member of the firm of James P. Melledge Co., wholesale coal dealers, whose business he extended in New York. In 1873 he moved to Brooklyn, residing for a long time in Lefferts place and later in Keap street. About ten years ago he removed to New Rochelle with his only daughter, the wife of Benjamin W. Wilson, son of the late Benjamin W. Wilson and formerly a well-known resident of the Eastern District.

Mr. Perkins was a member of the Chamber of Commerce, the Maritime Association and other mercantile bodies. For years he had largely supplied the coal used by the Consolidated Gas Company. He belonged to the New England Society, the Brooklyn Masonic Veterans—he was a thirty-second degree Mason—and a member of the Long Island Historical society, the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences, the Universalist club of New York, and of All Souls Universalist Church.

Mr. Perkins was a man of ability and high character. He was a liberal giver to charitable and educational work, especially to Tufts College, Boston, and the Franklin Home for Working Girls, in that city. In 1852 he was married to Sarah Elizabeth Everett of Bethel, Me.

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