

[Smiley, John Wallace]

John W. Smiley, 54 years old, well known resident of Bemus Point and a member of the Bemus Point Fire Department, died at his home at midnight tonight from injuries received at about 8 o'clock in the evening when he was jolted from the village fire truck about a mile and a half above the village. Internal injuries caused death, in the opinion of Dr. J. H. Kellogg, the attending physician. Mr. Smiley and other members of the Fire Department were out on the village fire truck, using the ladder to reach broken limbs which had fallen across the lighting wires in various localities as a result of the recent sleet storm. The truck was near what is called West's Place when Mr. Smiley lost his hold and was jolted from the machine. The other men stopped at once and picked up Mr. Smiley, who then was unconscious. They hurried him to Dr. Kellogg's office. The doctor succeeded in bringing him to partial consciousness and after about an hour Mr. Smiley was removed to his home, the doctor accompanying him. Mr. Smiley's condition did not seem especially grave until just before midnight, when he suddenly took a turn for the worse and died just at 12 o'clock. Dr. Kellogg believes that he had severe internal chest injuries. Mr. Smiley some years ago was employed in the State Fish Hatchery at Bemus Point and more recently had done considerable work as a mechanic. He is survived by two sisters, Mrs. Bert W. Ryan, wife of an assistant chief of the Jamestown Fire Department and another sister in Erie, Pa.

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Dr. Paul G. Weston of Jamestown performed an autopsy this evening upon the body of J. Wallace Smiley to determine the cause of his death. Dr. James H. Kellogg of Bemus Point was present. Following a thorough examination, Dr. Weston announced that Mr. Smiley's heart was in very serious condition and his death might have occurred at any time in the past five years. Dr. Weston said that Mr. Smiley had suffered a heart attack Sunday evening while riding on a fire truck with four other firemen and had fallen off the vehicle. He died four hours later. Cuts about Mr. Smiley's face were due the breaking of his glasses and although there was a bad bruise on his chest that could not possibly have caused his death, which Dr. Weston ascribed to heart disease. At the time of Mr. Smiley's death late Sunday night it was believed his death had been caused by internal injuries as a result of his fall from the truck, but Dr. Weston stated that that was not the cause.....The funeral of J. Wallace Smiley was held yesterday at 2 p.m. from the Bemus Point Universalist Church. J. Chester Molyneux of Jamestown conducted the services. The bearers, all members of the Bemus Point Volunteer Fire Department, of which the deceased was a member were: Mervin Lamphere, E. M. Arnold, James Culver, Arthur Carpenter, Richard Arnold and Peter Miller. Burial was in Bemus Point Cemetery. The firemen attended the services in a body and also acted as an escort from the home to the church.

Post Journal, Jamestown NY, Wed. 15 Jan 1930