

[Stevens, James B.]

James B. Stevens

Death of an Old Resident at His Home on Saratoga Avenue

James P. Stevens, one of the oldest and most prominent business men of Rochester, died Saturday at his home, No. 189 Saratoga avenue, aged 82 years. He had been ill since New Year's and death was caused by a complication of diseases brought on by acute Bright's disease.

The deceased was born in Almond, Allegany county, May 16, 1820 and was the oldest of a family of nine children. His father, Levi Stevens, was a farmer and carpenter in Almond, and when his son James had graduated from the district school of that place, he with his three brothers learned the carpenter's trade. He served his apprenticeship with his father and remained with him until he was 23 years of age, when he came to this city.

The holding of the state fair in Rochester in 1843 led to Mr. Stevens' determination to reside here. He attended the fair and was impressed with the possibilities of success here. He procured employment with Charles Coleman, a contractor and builder, and worked for him for a year. He then went to work in the boat yard on Oak street, which was conducted by Joel P. Millner. Here he remained for two years, when he took a position as foreman with Cram & Knapp, contractors and builders, on Canal street near Main.

Mr. Stevens' next move was to start in business for himself, and he began by erecting houses for his brother-in-law, J. Hatch, and Mr. Dockstader. For fifteen years he conducted this business successfully and it gradually increased under his management.

He and his brother, William Stevens, purchased a small box factory at the foot of Furnace street from Mr. Roe in 1857, and a few years later he bought out his brother's interest, and for some time carried on the business alone. Thirty years ago his son, the late Alvarado Stevens, who died May 19, 1901, became associated with him in the business. A number of years ago Mr. Stevens moved his factory to Commercial street, where it now stands.

In 1845 Mr. Stevens married Miss Georgiana Allen. His wife died in 1880 and two years later he married Mrs. Ophelia Palmer.

He is survived by his wife; one daughter, Mrs. J. T. Kinsey, of this city; and five brothers, John Stevens of Indiana; George Stevens of Boone, Iowa; Lucien Stevens of Dayton, O.; and Luciland Stevens of Missouri.

Mr. Stevens was an active member of the Masonic order. He was a member of Yonnonديو Lodge, Hamilton Chapter, Doric Council, and Monroe Commandery.

The funeral will be held from his home on Saratoga avenue at 2:30 o'clock this afternoon. Rev. Isaac P. Coddington, pastor of First Universalist Church, of which he was a member, will conduct the services, and the remains will be interred in Mount Hope Cemetery.

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