

[Youmans, Daniel D.]  
[Youmans, Sarah E. Stickney]

### DEATH ENDS THEIR TOUR

Mrs. and Mrs. D. D. Youmans Drowned in Norway  
Meagre Announcement of the Accident Received in This City—  
Were Out Driving on the Fourth of July—Their Bodies to be Brought Back—  
Mr. Youmans's Long Career as a Business Man—Difficulties of His Early Life

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel D. Youmans of this city were drowned on the Fourth of July in a Norwegian lake. A cablegram received Saturday evening made the announcement of the deaths. Ephriam M. Youmans, one of the two sons, sent an inquiry for particulars, and yesterday he received another cablegram from a gentleman who was traveling in company with Mr. and Mrs. Youmans, saying that they were drowned while driving on the borders of a lake near Bergen, Norway.

Bergen is a city of 50,000 population, and is the second largest in Norway. It is partly on the Sogue Fjord, a enormous arm of the sea running into the interior 125 miles. Above the city are numerous small lakes and beautiful drives along precipitous places. Mr. and Mrs. Youmans were probably thrown from their carriages into a lake at one of these steep places and drowned before they could be helped out. The bodies, the second cable added, had been recovered and would be sent to New-York.

Mr. Youmans was born in 1829 in Warwick, N.Y., where his grandfather, Daniel C. Dusinger manufactured hats. Two hats made by him in 1810 are preserved in the family. Mr. Youmans learned nothing of the hat business from his grandfather, however. He was the youngest of seven children. The other six died of consumption while they were young, and he was of a weakly constitution, so feeble, indeed, that he was not sent to school, and up to the time he was twenty-five years old remained at home. He began to educate himself, and his first venture into the world was to come to this city. He worked as clerk for several firms. He held minor positions and studied bookkeeping nights until he was thirty years old.

[On] Aug. 8, 1859, Mr. Youmans inserted the following advertisement in a newspaper: A Competent, Practical Bookkeeper desires a situation in a manufacturing or mechanical establishment as bookkeeper or general clerk; is a man of correct morals and good address. Address Fraternally, Box 170.

The day after Mr. Youmans got this note: Fraternally: It may possibly be to your advantage to call on Nascimento & Co., 10 Spruce Street.

Nascimento & Co. were hatters. Mr. Youmans engaged with them and made his first practical acquaintance with the hat business. He married, and two sons, Ephriam M., now twenty-nine years old, and Vincent M., twenty-seven years old, were born. [On] Aug. 9, 1862, precisely three years after he had gone in with Nascimento & Co., Mr. Youmans came back from a two weeks' vacation. Mr. Nascimento informed him that the firm had to cut down expenses and that it would have to do without his services.

The next day he walked down Broadway, reflecting on the situation. He saw "To let" in the window of 689. He determined on the spot to go into the retail hat business... Youmans had \$300. He rented the storeroom the next day. It cost \$488 to fit up the building. He hired John L. Prime as clerk and got a stock of hats on credit, part of them from Nascimento & Co.

The first day's sales amounted to \$18, and increased every day, until on Saturday they were \$62. Mr. Youmans, in this period, had become a strong and active man physically, and he developed a natural gift for trade. He thrived, and opened two branches—one up town in 1871, and another further downtown in 1879. At the time of his death he had stores at 158 and 1107 Broadway.

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Mr. Youmans was a member of the Universalist Church [of the Divine Paternity, or Fourth Universalist], in Fifth Avenue and Forty-fifth Street, of which Dr. [Edwin H.] Chapin was pastor. He contributed to the Chapin Home for the Aged and Infirm, and provided in it a home for an old clerk, Thomas Park, who is still living. For several years Mr. Youmans had been Treasurer of the church and a cordial friend of the present pastor, Dr. Charles H. Eaton. His first wife died in the early seventies.

At the church Mr. Youmans met Miss Sarah E. Stickney, a daughter of Charles L. Stickney, who established a mustard and mustard oil factory in the city in 1815. He was a member of Dr. Chapin's church, and a rich man. Miss Stickney was conspicuous in the work of the church. Mr. Youmans and she were married. Mrs. Youmans was a leading member of Sorosis, and for a time its Treasurer. On the death of her father, she inherited a small fortune. Her brother, Charles L. Stickney, conducts the business established by his father at 257 Bowery. He and his family are spending the summer at Hill Crest Hall, Highland Mills, Orange County, N.Y. He read of his sister's death in the newspapers.

Mrs. Youmans had a sister, who married John J. Jacquelin, a broker. She is still living.

Mr. Youmans was fond of athletics, a taste that he acquired while building up his deficient constitution in his youth. He was a member and a Director of the New-York Athletic Club, and of the Blooming Grove Part Association, a hunting and fishing club, with preserves in Pike County, Penn. He and his wife were at their cottage at the grove for the Summer about a month ago, when Mr. Youmans's aged mother died in this city. He seemed so deeply affected that Mrs. Youmans proposed that they go abroad.

They had made nine foreign trips together, and had covered all the well-known tourist routes. Last Summer they went to Egypt and a thousand miles up the Nile to Wady Halfa. The only countries in Europe they had not seen were Scandinavia and Russia. They determined to go there, and on June 18 sailed with a party of excursionists in the Augusta Victoria. They had not been in Europe longer than a week at the time of the accident.

"Mr. Youmans was probably celebrating the Fourth," said Frederick P. Forster, a lawyer at 52 Wall Street, and Mr. Youman's lifetime friend, in talking with a reporter for The New-York Times yesterday. "As near as could be made out from the cablegrams, he had gone into the country for a drive with his wife. He was a most patriotic man, and delighted when abroad to observe the Fourth of July in some way."

Mr. and Mrs. Youmans had apartments in the Navarro flats, 180 West Fifty-ninth Street. The two sons, Ephriam and Vincent, were there yesterday. They are both interested in their late father's business.

Mr. Youmans had an income from his business that is vaguely estimated by outsiders at from \$40,000 to \$75,000 a year. He spent liberally in all directions. Both he and his wife left wills.

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Transcribed on 29 Jul 2009 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY