

OUR SORROW.

The Village In Mourning.

DEATH OF HENRY W. DODGE IN THE BURNING OF THE DODGE ROLLER MILL.

Perished in the Building in an
Attempt to Save the
Property.

The Fine Mill Totally Destroyed.—Adjoining Property Saved by Our Fire Equipment and the Energetic Work of Citizens.—Total Loss Estimated at \$50,000, Insurance \$30,000.

Last Friday morning, June 15, 1894, will be long remembered as the date on which a beloved and esteemed public spirited citizen met his death and a fine property was laid in ruins. Between 3.30 and 4.00 A. M. on that morning fire was discovered in the Dodge Roller Mill owned by Leonard Dodge of Buffalo, and Henry W. Dodge of this village, and the extensive plant was entirely destroyed. The heartrending feature, however, of the fire was that the resident proprietor of this village lost his life in attempting to save the property. The mill was running at the time and night miller, Mr. Leo Daniels, states that the fire originated in the basement. He rushed to Mr. Dodge's residence near the mill and aroused the inmates, and then to that of the foreman adjoining, Mr. John Klute, and gave the alarm. During Mr. Daniels' absence Mr. Dodge entered the mill, and the fact that the search of the ruins showed that the hose on the lower floor, which connected with a 200 barrel tank in the top of the mill, had been taken from its place and partly strung out, and the location in which the remains were found, conclusively proved that he had lost his life while manfully endeavoring to save the property.

The power house whistle and other alarms soon brought to the entire village to the scene, together with the fire apparatus and chief and assistant engineer. The engine was backed up to the race and many willing hands lent manly assistance. Finding it impossible to save the mill the stream from the engine was turned on to the mill residence about thirty feet distant and after heroic work of about an hour this building was saved. A prominent insurance gentleman of Buffalo, said that saving this property was an exceedingly creditable piece of work and that no more



HENRY W. DODGE.

OBITUARY.

HENRY W. DODGE.

At about four o'clock Friday morning Henry W. Dodge met his death in an attempt to save his mill, the particulars of which will be found in another column.

Williamsville mourns today, and will not be comforted. She has lost a noble, generous, honest man. A man in the broadest sense has fallen and hearts ache woefully. A citizen who has been a power in this community for many years; and a friend abounding in unostentatious, helpful deeds, has gone out from among us and the places that knew him will know him no more.

When the dread intelligence was announced that Henry W. Dodge had perished in his mill, and as the word passed from lip to lip, each one upon whose ear it fell could hardly believe that it was true. It was but yesterday that he had been seen in the full vigor of life, engaged in its active realities, the embodiment of a live, energetic man, and now, could it be? Henry Dodge dead! And at once, as the fact was realized, there was a universal expression of sincere sorrow and regret. That his death was a loss which would be keenly felt was apparent, and especially by those who were in close sympathy, but our lament and substantial aid.

Mr. Dodge was pre-eminently a man of positive convictions, but beneath all in his breast beat one of the warmest, most affectionate and most sensitive hearts. Frank and inherently honest, he hated sham and despised hypocrisy. In his intercourse with men, in whatever capacity acting, none could misunderstand him, and opponents respected and esteemed while they opposed. He was a strong and vigorous, but an open opponent.

Shrine; also of Erie Lodge, F. & A. M., and Arundel Council, O. U. F., Buffalo. He was President of the Board of Education of our Union Free School. He leaves to mourn their great loss a wife and three children, Charlotte, Harriot and Leonard C.; also two brothers, Leonard of Buffalo, Arthur (half brother) of this village, and two sisters, Mrs. Alma D. Hayes of Clarence, and Mrs. Mattie E. Rogers of Denver, Colorado.

THE FUNERAL OBSEQUES.

At half-past two o'clock, Tuesday afternoon, from the home of Mrs. J. Wayne Dodge in this village, the solemn and sacred funeral ceremony was performed amid the sorrowing, regretful tears of a stricken people. All gathered to bestow the last affectionate tribute to the one who had been with them so long but who was now about to go out from among them forever.

The room in which the remains were placed was laden with a profusion of choicest flowers, among them many arranged in emblematical designs of sweetest import. Erie Lodge, F. & A. M., Buffalo Chapter, Lake Erie Commandery, Buffalo Consistory, Ismailia Shrine of Buffalo, and the Knights of Maccabees, Ladies of Maccabees and I. O. O. F. organizations of this village, all sent large and beautiful pieces of lovely design. These, with many exquisite remembrances from friends and neighbors, picture not soon forgotten.

The services were conducted by the Rev. J. L. McDonald, pastor of the Christian Church of this village. The bearers were James Chalmers, S. A. Westland, Peter Grove, C. H. Gotwalt, L. L. Grove, A. L. Rinewalt.

The attendance from Buffalo and surrounding country was very large, friends coming from all sections to pay their respects to the memory of the deceased.

After the solemn services the lengthy

that he had lost his life while manfully endeavoring to save the property.

The power house, stable and other buildings brought into the entire village to the scene, together with the fire apparatus and chief and assistant engineer. The engine was backed up to the race and many willing hands lent manly assistance. Finding it impossible to save the mill the stream from the engine was turned on to the mill residence about thirty feet distant and after heroic work of about an hour this building was saved. A prominent insurance gentleman of Buffalo, said that saving this property was an exceedingly creditable piece of work and that no more could have been done by any fire department. Citizens thinking the house could not be saved removed all the goods and in the hurry considerable damage necessarily followed.

Word was at once telephoned to Mr. Leonard Dodge of Buffalo, and he was soon on the spot. He ordered a thorough search of the ruins for the remains of his brother, and was in unremitting attendance throughout. A hose was attached to a pump in the power house and the smoking premises thoroughly wet down. Soon large gangs of men commenced work, but the thousands of bushels of grain to be moved made the task a laborious one. All day Friday and up to Saturday afternoon was the work continued. About three P. M. the remains were uncovered in the debris in the west part of the mill. The profile of the face was perfect and on the left hand was still the handsome masonic ring, with the figure thirty-two studded with diamonds on the surface and the name of the owner on the inside. This, and the hunting case gold watch and chain, had gone through the fire with apparently little damage, the diamond settings on the ring and charm being uninjured. The watch had stopped at twenty-five minutes of five. The remains were tenderly lifted and taken to Mr. Dodge's late residence, where all was done possible under the deplorable circumstances.

Mrs. Henry W. Dodge left on Thursday morning for Olivet, Mich., where she expected to spend about two weeks with Mrs. Fred. N. Ely, an intimate friend, and formerly a resident of this village. Mr. Dodge was to meet her there and they were to return home together. A telegram was immediately sent her and she returned home early Saturday morning.

The Dodge mill was one of our most valued industries and its loss to our village will be severely felt. It was originally built in 1817. It has since been practically rebuilt.

In 1864 the mill was purchased by Mr. J. Wayne Dodge, who some time after sold it to his son, Mr. Leonard Dodge, and since 1874 Mr. Henry W. Dodge has been a partner. Since they have owned the property constant improvements have been made and at the time of the fire it took rank with the leading mills in this section of the country. In another column will be found an obituary sketch of the late Henry W. Dodge.

Died.

—Reinold Franke, son of Albert and

borrow and regret. That his death was a loss which would be keenly felt was apparent and especially by those who were in need of his sympathy, encouragement and substantial aid.

Mr. Dodge was pre-eminently a man of positive convictions, but beneath all in his breast beat one of the warmest, most affectionate and most sensitive hearts. Frank and inherently honest, he hated sham and despised hypocrisy. In his intercourse with men, in whatever capacity acting, none could misunderstand him, and opponents respected and esteemed while they opposed. He was a strong and vigorous, but an open opponent.

His heart was as warm and full of love for his fellow men as his mind was broad and comprehensive. No worthy appeal was ever made to that heart that was not accorded a quick and sympathetic response, and no manly opponent was ever refused an honorable reconciliation.

Tender as a woman, manly as a man, his was a nature and a character full of good impulses, overflowing with kindness and illuminated with individualism. As such, for over twenty years, he has lived with this community. As a public spirited man, one who could be counted on in any enterprise which would enhance the village's material welfare, he was ever among the foremost. In his business enterprises he was prudent and cautious. He sat down and counted the cost and weighed carefully the chances before he embarked. He believed in the progress of the age. He touched nothing by way of legitimate enterprise that he did not seek to improve. As an indication of his progressiveness it is only necessary to mention that arrangements had been made between himself and brother, Mr. Leonard Dodge, who wished to be relieved from part of his business cares, whereby he was, on August 1 next, to purchase the latter's entire interest and assume full control of their extensive milling business.

For fifteen years we have been associated with Henry W. Dodge in business and public affairs, and for fifteen years we have loved him as a brother. He has been a frank counsellor, a judicious adviser, a constant, faithful friend unto the end. In all these years, though circumstances may have occasioned a variance of views at times, he has always been the thoroughly true friend and honorable companion. We cannot tread the beaten path today in speaking of our friend. He was all in all to some now prostrated with a great sorrow, but in our selfish grief we remember that he has also been so much, oh, so much, to us, and so we know him to have been to many others. Eyes little used to tears are filled, and hearts are aching that are not wont to ache.

In his domestic relations he was a tender, affectionate husband, a kind and indulgent father. That which contributed to the happiness of his family, and made sweeter the tie that bound them together, gave to him the deepest satisfaction. Very largely and tenderly do the sympathies of our community go out to the sorrowing ones who remain. Their loss we cannot measure. He, alone, who pities the widow and the fatherless, and who dries the mourner's tears, can comfort and console those who are left.

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The attendance from Buffalo and surrounding country was very large, friends coming from all sections to pay their respects to the memory of the deceased.

After the solemn services the lengthy and imposing cortege moved sadly to the beautiful Forest Lawn cemetery in Buffalo. There, amid the suppressed sobs and falling tears of those to whom he was so deeply endeared, and bowed heads and grieving hearts of innumerable mourners, the casket was lowered into the grave. Slowly, quietly and sadly the multitude moved away to their homes to mourn and regret for many a day the man who was lost to them in this life.

"We weep today with grief undimmed,
We mourn for one too dear to tell;
To utmost depths our hearts are pained;
How can we speak the long farewell?"

"One home today too sad to know;
One broken circle crushed complete;
For them full streams of sorrow flow,
For them full hearts both pang and beat."

Resolutions of Respect.

FROM THE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

At a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Williamsville Union Free School held June 20, 1894, the following preamble and resolutions were adopted:

WHEREAS, The Lord, in His divine wisdom, has seen fit to remove from our midst our beloved and esteemed co-worker, Henry W. Dodge; and be it

Resolved, That the Board of Trustees recognize that in the death of Mr. Henry W. Dodge we have lost a most efficient President and an untiring worker for the interests of our school and the advancement of higher education in this district; and be it

Resolved, That his sudden departure will leave a great shadow upon the hearts of this Board and the community at large; and be it

Resolved, That we extend to the bereaved family our heartfelt sympathies at the loss of a devoted and affectionate husband and father; and be it

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be spread upon the records of the Board, and a copy sent to the family of the deceased.

A. L. RINEWALT,
JAMES CHALMERS,
D. WHEELER,
JOHN HOFFMAN,
P. J. SNYDER,

Trustees.

FROM THE VILLAGE TRUSTEES.

At a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the village of Williamsville, held June 20, 1894, the following was adopted:

WHEREAS, The Lord, in His inscrutable providence, has taken from our number our esteemed brother trustee, Henry W. Dodge; therefore be it

Resolved, That this Board deeply sympathize with the family of our deceased brother trustee, Mr. Henry W. Dodge, in their sad affliction in the loss of a devoted and loving husband and an affectionate father; and this Board earnestly prays that health and strength may be granted the bereaved ones; and be it

Resolved, That in the loss of our dearly beloved associate the village of Williamsville has lost an earnest and conscientious trustee, one who was ever ready to advance its interests, and who by his fidelity to the trust reposed in him will long be remembered as a noble, faithful and upright public servant; one who will be