

Samuel Wild Watkins

(3 Apr 1838 – 27 Feb 1880)

The Evening Star, March 1, 1880

Fatal Fall From a Stairway

Mr. Samuel Watkins, a Post Office Department clerk, while going up stairs to his room in the Tremont House, Saturday night, upon reaching the second landing tottered and fell over the balustrade to the main floor beneath, striking head first on an iron-bound trunk. Several of the guests picked him up, and he was taken to his room and Drs. Elliott and Tarkington sent for. They found that his skull had been crushed in and his right thigh broken in two places; also that he had been injured internally. He died about 3 o'clock yesterday morning. The coroner deemed an inquest unnecessary. It is supposed that he was attacked with vertigo, with which he sometimes suffered, and losing his balance, fell over the stairway. Mr. Watkins arrived in this country in the early part of 1861 from Manchester, England, where he had been engaged in mercantile business, and enlisted in the United States service, out of purely patriotic motives, as a private in a New York regiment, and soon earned promotion. At the close of his term of service he served with Gen. Donaldson in the army of the Tennessee and later in Baltimore. He subsequently entered the Post Office department, where, on account of his excellent record, he was promoted to a high grade under the superintendent of the railway postal service. Mr. Watkins leaves a wife and child and a host of friends to mourn his sudden death.