

GEORGE WHIPPLE KIES, one of the oldest business men of Norwich and a most highly respected and esteemed citizen of that place, is a native of Killingly, Windham Co., Conn., born Nov. 7, 1828. The Kies family has been a numerous one in that town and has furnished a number of able representatives.

According to the Keyes and Kies family genealogy, published in 1880, the emigrant ancestor of this branch of the family was Wilson Kies, who was born in 1718, and who, according to a descendant, emigrated from Scotland, where the name was McKies. Wilson Kies resided in the south part of the town of Killingly, where he followed the occupation of farmer. He was known as a man of much native ability. His wife, Sarah H., was born in 1729, and died Oct. 2, 1821, while he died April 5, 1800, according to dates found on gravestones in West Killingly churchyard. Their three children were: Nathaniel, born May 7, 1759, in Killingly, Conn.; Ebenezer; and Wilson, born in 1765.

Wilson Kies, the grandfather of George W., was born in 1765, followed farming all his life, and was a quiet, exemplary man. He married Elizabeth (or Betsey) Hulet, a native of the State of New York, and survived his wife, dying in 1835. He left a large family of children, namely: Marvin, born June 4, 1798; Prentiss, a farmer, who married Miss Lucretia Colvin, and died in Killingly; William Wilson, a farmer of Killingly; Knight, who died when a young man; Phila, who married Randall Davis, a successful farmer of Killingly; Mary, who married Pardon Phillips and moved West; Eliza, who married a Mr. Bump and removed to Michigan; Harriet, who married Calvin Cooper and removed to Iowa; and Almira, who died at the age of eighteen years.

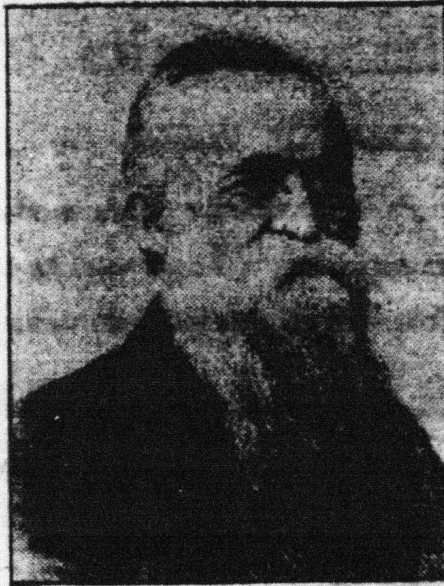
OBITUARY.

George W. Kies.

At 6.50 o'clock Thursday morning George W. Kies died at his home, No. 10 Laurel Hill avenue. His health had been poor for some time past and for the past three months he had been confined to his room.

George Whipple Kies was born in Killingly Nov. 7, 1828, the son of Marvin and Freelove Kies and was one of eight children. The family descended from Wilson Kies, who came to this country from Scotland and settled in Killingly in the early part of the eighteenth century.

Mr. Kies was 13 years old when his father died. His mother was a noble woman of good business and executive ability and being anxious that her children should receive good educational advantages secured good training for each. Mr. Kies attended the district school, which was a mile from his



GEORGE W. KIES.

home, until he was 15 years of age. He was then employed as clerk for a period of four years by the Danielson Manufacturing company in their store at West Killingly (now Danielson) at wages which began with \$25 and board the first year, \$50 and board the second year; \$70 and board the next year and something over \$100 and board the last year. During this time he was permitted to attend the academy at West Killingly one term. In company with Joseph B. Crandall, Mr. Kies then engaged in the drug business at West Killingly under the name of Kies and Crandall and continued in business with him until 1851 when he disposed of his interest to his partner and was employed by Mr. Crandall as bookkeeper and clerk until September, 1852. Going to South Windham for nearly a year he was employed as a clerk in the store of John G. Avery and in August, 1853, he came to Norwich and was employed in the confectionery store of David Gale on Franklin square while to add to his income he also kept books for other parties. In the spring of 1854 he was engaged as a clerk in the wholesale and retail boot and shoe store of G. A. Jones and company on Main street and remained with them as clerk for twelve years, until the summer of 1866 when he started in business for himself in a boot and shoe store in the Rockwell building, occupying one side of a store room. He remained there until 1871 when he removed to his present location in the Austin block. Mr. Kies did not have a partner until 1884 when James L. Coffee who had been a clerk in his employ for 12 years, was taken into partnership and the firm name became George W. Kies & Co. The shoe business was changed to a corporation in 1907 and James L. Crawford was admitted as a member, the name being changed to The George W. Kies Company.

Mr. Kies was married in this city on July 26, 1852 to Ellen Cornelia Allen, born in Killingly, the daughter of Jabez and Sarah (Bacon) Allen. Mrs. Kies died in this city on Sept. 5, 1912 at the age of 85 years. Mr. Kies leaves one son, George A. Kies of Hartford, who for some years was an organist in this city. There are two grandchildren, Mrs. Arthur E. Story of this city, and Miss Mabel L. Kies of Hartford.

this city, and Miss Isabel L. Kies of Hartford.

Mr. Kies, when a young man, was a member of Broadway church and held office in the organization. He founded the Norwich Holiness mission and took great interest in the organization and held the office of assistant superintendent. He joined the Emanuel Holiness church in Providence in 1902 and for 20 years was engaged in evangelical work. He was a director in the Douglas, Mass., and Portsmouth, R. I., Camp Meeting association and for years was a leading worker in the semi-annual camp meetings and conventions of his church at Silver Lake, Vt. and Hebron, Mass., as well as camp meetings of his church throughout New England and the east. Mr. Kies wrote several books in connection with his work in the Holiness church and among them were, Sanctification Definitely Sought and Obtained, Fifty Years in the Congregational Church, Did Ye Receive the Holy Ghost When Ye Believed? and Walking with God in the Twentieth Century.

Mr. Kies was in truth an ideal gentleman. He possessed a mild and winning personality, was honest in all his dealings, and was very successful in business. He never sought public office, although he could have had preferment at the polls for the seeking. He was a fine accountant and was versed on all topics of the day. With the passing of George Whipple Kies Norwich loses a worthy and model citizen.

John W. Baughman

OBITUARY.

Mrs. George W. Kies.

About 6 o'clock Thursday morning Ellen Cornelia Allen, wife of George W. Kies, passed away at her late home, No. 10 Laurel Hill avenue. Her health had been poor for the last eight years, owing to a shock which she suffered, and for the last two months she failed rapidly.

She was the daughter of Jabez A. Allen and Sarah Corey Bacon Allen and was born in Killingly about 85 years ago. She was united in marriage with George W. Kies in this city on July 26, 1852, and had lived in Norwich since her marriage. Mr. Kies is also a native of Killingly and came to this city in 1853. Mr. Kies was a member of the King's Daughters, to which she belonged for a number of years, and was also a member of the Broadway Congregational church. She was of a very genial disposition and always found pleasure in doing good.

Mrs. Kies inherited the fine traits of her New England ancestry and took for her guide through life her religious faith. She had a host of friends among the old residents of this city who admired and respected her. She was devoted to her husband, was a kind mother and a helpful and loving friend. All who knew her speak of her in the highest terms and extend their deep sympathy to those who mourn their great loss.

Mrs. Kies is survived by her husband, George W. Kies, who is a well known shoe dealer of this city, and an only son, George A. Kies, a well known organist and teacher of music. The deceased is the last of a family of four, two brothers and two sisters.

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John W. Baithorn