

## INSTANTLY KILLED.

AUG 17 — 1887

### Henry C. Vowles Crushed and Mangled in a Freight Elevator.

Last Wednesday afternoon Henry C. Vowles of this county, was instantly killed at Detroit in an elevator accident, the particulars of which we copy from the Free Press:

A shocking accident, resulting in the almost instantaneous death of Henry C. Vowles, a new comer in Detroit, residing with his family at 1403 Michigan avenue, occurred about 4 p. m. yesterday at the wholesale notion establishment of J. T. Daniels & Co., 103 Jefferson avenue, second floor. The ground floor at 103 and 105 Jefferson avenue is occupied by J. W. Fales & Co., wholesale stationers, and the elevator in the building is used jointly by the two firms. Shortly before 4 o'clock Vowles, who was employed for a couple of days last week by Daniels & Co., in helping to clean up the stock, came to the door of the elevator shaft opening in the alley, and without inquiring for the boy who is employed to run the elevator to take him up, stepped upon it and ascended to the second floor. He made his inquiries of the clerks concerning a pair of slippers he had worn in the establishment, and which he said he had forgotten to take home. No one had seen the slippers; nor did they pay much attention to Vowles, who was an old acquaintance of the senior member of the firm, and on that account had been given employment when extra help was needed. Thinking that perhaps the slippers might be on the third floor, Vowles turned and went to the elevator again. At this time it was at the bottom of the well. Vowles signalled and then taking hold of the cable started the elevator. When it reached the level of the floor on which he was he stepped upon it, at the same time giving the cable a jerk to increase the speed. As he did so he lost his balance, and in attempting to recover it fell between the rapidly ascending elevator and the side of the well. In an instant he was a bruised and bleeding corpse. Death resulted so suddenly that he did not even have time to make an outcry. The elevator drew him up until his head struck against the sill of the third floor. Then it compressed his body into the small space—about six inches—between the elevator and the side of the well, and still ascending, crushed in his ribs, which cracked like pipe-stems, peeled portions of the skin from his face, tore his scalp from a point at the top of the forehead back about three inches; also fracturing the skull and it is thought breaking the victim's neck. When the horrified clerks first discovered him Vowles was hanging by his head, crushed between the sill and the elevator, which had stopped.

He was at once taken down and laid upon the floor, his life blood gushing from his mouth and the wounds on his head and settling in a great pool about him. An examination showed that the heart had ceased beating, Vowles having breathed his last almost the instant he fell after stepping upon the elevator.

Mr. V. was for years a resident of New Hudson and Milford. He was 45 years old and leaves a widow and four children to mourn the loss of a kind husband and father. The remains were met at the Milford depot Thursday by the local G. A. R. post of which body Mr. Vowles was a worthy member, and funeral services were afterwards held at the M. E. church. The bereaved family have the sympathy of all in their sudden and sad affliction.

PONTIAC Bill Postel

THE REGISTER

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