



(THIS IS HIS OBITUARY).....  
B. U. BUGBEE DEAD.

One of Southbridge's Prominent  
Citizens.

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HIS ACTIVE CAREER

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Was Marked by Success in  
Business.

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Benejah U. Bugbee, president and  
treasurer of the Southbridge Optical  
company, died at his home in Southbridge  
at 3 o'clock, this morning, of  
kidney trouble. His last illness was very  
short. He led the choir at the Congregational  
church Sunday, and before the  
services closed was taken with a chill.  
BENEJAH U. BUGBEE.

He was removed to his home and gradually  
sank until death came this morning.

He was born in Thompson, Ct.,  
Aug. 13, 1845. After attending schools  
in his native town, he came to Southbridge  
in 1862 and entered the employ of

William J. Keith, then postmaster and in charge of a telegraph office. The War of the Rebellion was then at its height, and as soon as the young man had learned to take messages off the wire he was often appealed to for the latest news from the seat of war. In those days there were no railway connections with Southbridge, so the earliest papers were those received at noon by coach from the Charlton depot. It was customary to open the telegraph office for an hour on Sunday afternoons, at which time men were always around to get the latest "war news." In answer to their anxious inquiries, Mr Bugbee would take matter from a wire which was the first one strung from New York to Boston by the Associated Press by the way of Southbridge. He left this office, after three years of service, for the Charlestown office of the American Telegraph company and later entered the main office in Boston. The principal work here was sending and receiving Associated Press matter. One of his associates was Thomas A. Edison, who at that time devoted a great deal of his spare time to experimenting.

He returned to Southbridge in 1869, and entered into co-partnership with George A. Hanson and George F. Hyde, under the firm name of Hanson, Hyde & Co. The firm did a general dry goods business, but later became the property of Mr Bugbee and Albert H. Wheeler, and the business was conducted under the name of Bugbee & Wheeler. The store became the largest in town and had a great deal of outside patronage. He was at one time postmaster at Globe Village. Mr Bugbee became interested in the Southbridge Optical company in 1880, and was elected treasurer of the same five years later. The greater part of his energies were devoted to the success of the corporation. Since 1892 he had been the president and treasurer, retiring from the dry goods business in 1893.

He was an active supporter of the Republican party, serving as a member of the town committee. He was sent to the Legislature in 1883, serving on the committee of agriculture. He was prominent in church work, and in 1867 was married to Emma J., eldest daughter of Dr. and Mrs. L. W. Curtls. He left, besides a widow, two sons, E. L. and L. W. Bugbee, who are connected with the corporation, and a daughter, Mrs W. H. Wyman, wife of the general secretary of the Chelsea Y. M. C. A. The funeral will be held from his late

residence at Hillside park, Friday afternoon  
at 1 o'clock. Rev W. A. Hadley,  
pastor of the Congregational church,  
will officiate.