

WILLIAM E. DELANO'S DEATH.

Old Fire Chief of Charlestown Will Be Followed to His Grave by Many Friends.

William E. Delano, formerly chief of the Charlestown fire department, before that city was annexed to Boston, for the past dozen years a valued attache of the fire commissioner's office on Bristol st, and one of the most valiant and bravest men in fire circles during the past half century, passed away early yesterday morning at his home, 70 High st, Charlestown, after a brief sickness of a complication of diseases.

For the past year Chief Delano has been a sufferer with brights disease, and on account of his advanced years his



WILLIAM E. DELANO.
Charlestown Veteran Fireman.

physical condition was considerably weakened by this attack. Two weeks ago he suffered a severe chill and caught cold, which rapidly developed into pneumonia, and he gradually became weakened until his heart failed him yesterday morning.

He was 69 years old on his last birthday, Aug 29.

He leaves his wife, Julia A. Delano, and a son, Chauncey R., who is connected with ladder 9, Main st, Charlestown.

The funeral will be held Sunday at 1:30. Services will be held at the First Universalist church, Church st, Charlestown, Rev William M. Kimmell officiating. The funeral will be in charge of the Charlestown veteran volunteer firemen's association and Howard lodge, I. O. O. F. A delegation of officials and coworkers from the commissioner's office will probably attend the services.

Chief William E. Delano was born in Charlestown in 1832. He attended the old training field school under Masters Bates, Swan and Baxter. In 1845 he left school and began life as a newsboy, selling papers on the Fitchburg railroad, being the first to carry daily papers on the road. Later he was express messenger on the same road. He joined the Charlestown fire department as a volunteer in 1848, and was assigned to Warren engine company, No. 4, under Capt James C. Poor.

In 1850 he was elected a member of the company and filled the office of clerk from 1855 to March, 1865, when the company was disbanded. He was then transferred to Heward steam engine company No 1, and was elected foreman in 1866. The following year he was promoted to assistant engineer and in 1872 was chosen chief engineer, which position he held until the city's annexation to Boston in 1874, when he turned over all the property of the company to Chief Engineer Damrell of Boston.

Under the new regime Mr Delano was offered the position of assistant district chief of the district, but he declined it, and was appointed captain of engine 27. In March, 1884, he was appointed call chief for Charlestown and remained in that position until May, 1890, when he was retired from active fire duty and transferred to the office of the fire commissioner, where he remained up to the time of his last sickness.

From 1859 to 1887 Mr Delano was also employed in the navy yard in various capacities, but principally as roll clerk, this being his position during the war and for many years thereafter. He was an active member of the veteran firemen's association both of Boston and of Charlestown.

Chief Delano took a prominent part in fighting many of the large conflagrations of Boston and its vicinity, the largest of which was the big Boston fire, 29 years ago. In a story recently compiled, and now in book form on the shelves of the Boston public library, it states that Chief Delano was the first outside chief personally to tender the assistance of his department to Chief Damrell, which he did a few minutes before 8 o'clock.

He was requested to send all the assistance he could, and, returning to Charlestown, he sounded an alarm from box 21, now box 421, at 8:05 a m, and ordered an engine and two hose companies to the fire as soon as they arrived at the box, all having horses.