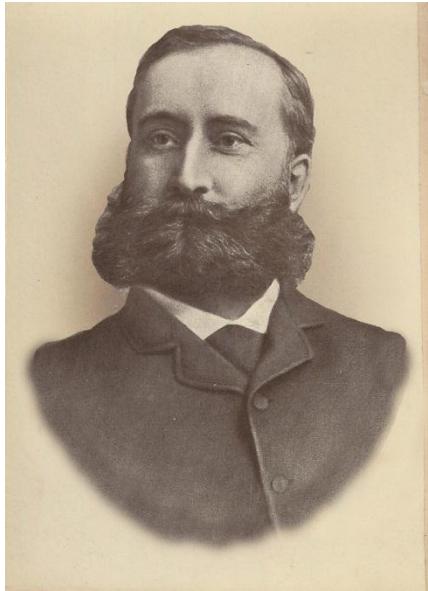


James H Davis

James H Davis born 1846, was a son of George L Davis co-partner of the highly successful Davis and Furber Machine Shops, which by 1880 were in their hay day.



James was the second of 4 sons. He was educated locally and attended Phillips Academy for a couple years, military school at Worcester, and Williston Seminary in Easthampton and in about 1863 was brought into the company along with his older brother George and Joseph Stone's son James as part of the establishment of the next generation to own and run the business. In 1871 he married Ida Parkhurst who died the following year in November 1872. He then married in 1875 Caroline Endicott Curwen of Salem, daughter of James B Curwen, a wealthy Salem merchant and one of the first members of St Paul's. It is well established that George L. Davis and his family were devout members and heavy patrons of the Trinitarian Church. Apparently Caroline's influence when the Episcopal presence came to town was more compelling and James H and Caroline were part of the first

organizational meeting. In 1880 James, enumerated as manufacturer of machinery, and Carrie, were living on Osgood Street—he was 33, she 30. They had two servants—not bad for a family of two. James and Carrie had one child, Arthur C Davis who died in his 20th day of life in 1876. They had no other children.

James H Davis was a member of the first Executive Committee—the structure akin to the current vestry-- from the founding until his untimely death. He was on the first committee on Constitution and By Laws, and with Sutton and French, made up the building committee which set the plans and construction of St Paul's. Moreover in the records, his name stands out as perhaps the most engaged do-er of his time, serving on many committees and initiating many actions. Unfortunately Davis became ill in the summer, rallied briefly in the fall, and died at in December 1886 in Salem at the young age of 40, cutting short what had been, and promised to be, a life of devoted service to St Paul's. He also died a very wealthy man. Since his will was contested upon the death of Caroline in 1915, his estate, some \$15,000 in real estate and \$77,000 in personal estate is recorded---pretty good for a man who died at the age of 40. Upon his death, the Vestry wrote this:

In Memoriam

Whereas it has pleased God in his providence to call to his eternal rest our friend and associated

James H Davis

For many years a prominent and active member of the Executive Committee of St Paul's Mission North Andover

Resolved that we humbly record our sense of deep sorrow in the loss we and the worshippers of the Mission have sustained by his death, and sincere regret, that he will no longer cheer us by his pleasant companionship, nor aid us by his wise counsel, and generous support.

Since the formation of the Mission, when in health, he has been a servant and constant attendant in the worship of our church. His sound judgment probity and uprightness of life made him a safe and prudent counselor in the affairs of the Mission whilst his personal traits and character, his amiability of disposition, his pleasant and courteous demeanor endeared him to those who knew and loved him best.

Resolved That in offering our heartfelt condolence and sympathy to the widow and family, we pray also, that the God of all comfort will sustain and console them in this their time of heavy sorrow and sad bereavement.

Signed by the Vestry January 27, 1887

A substantial plaque is mounted in St Paul's sanctuary, given by his wife in his memory.

