

**Death of Mr. James Lot Ridgely, a Prominent Odd-Fellow.**—James Lot Ridgely, grand corresponding and recording secretary of the Sovereign Grand Lodge I. O. O. F., died at his residence, No. 257 Lanvale street, at 7.20 o'clock yesterday morning, after a sickness of several years. In 1873 Mr. Ridgely had a stroke of paralysis, which was followed by similar attacks at long intervals, and for nearly two years prior to his death he had been unable to attend actively to business.

James Lot Ridgely was born in Baltimore, January 27, 1807. His ancestors for a number of generations were natives of Maryland. Having pursued his scientific and classical studies at St. Mary's College, Emmitsburg, he studied law with David Hoffman, then professor of law in the University of Maryland, and was admitted to the Baltimore bar in 1828. He was a member of the city council in 1834 and 1835, a member of the Maryland House of Delegates in 1838, and a member of the constitutional conventions of 1840 and 1864. When 22 years of age he became an Odd-Fellow, and rapidly rose to distinction in that body. In 1842 he was elected and since then biennially re-elected grand recording and corresponding secretary. In early life he was a whig, but later he voted and acted with the democratic party. For twelve years, beginning in 1852, he was register of wills for Baltimore county. Since 1855 he had been president of the Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Baltimore County. During a portion of President Lincoln's administration he was United States collector of internal revenue. For several years he was president of the Baltimore county board of education. He compiled a history of American Odd-Fellowship which is regarded as authority by the order.

He first appeared in the Grand Lodge of the United States at the annual session of the order September 5, 1831, as a representative of Maryland. He headed the petition for a charter to open a Grand Encampment in Baltimore, which was granted, and the grand body was instituted December 31 following, being the first Grand Encampment in the world. In 1833 he was made grand secretary of the Grand Lodge of Maryland. He took an active part in the perfection and adoption of the Revised Work in 1835. In recognition of his valuable services he was twice elected to the position of grand sire of the order, the highest office in the order in America. Both these elections, one in 1836 and the other in 1840, he declined. In 1840 he was elected grand corresponding secretary, and afterwards grand recording secretary of the Sovereign Lodge of the order, which offices he held up to his death. In 1842 he, with Rev. I. D. Williamson, of Alabama, was sent as a delegate to meetings of the order in Manchester, England. The Grand Lodge of the United States, in 1846, presented him with a very valuable gold watch and chain, as an indication of the appreciation of his services. He was a fine writer, and was author of a considerable portion of the ritual of the order. In 1848 he was appointed a special grand representative to the Grand Lodge of British North America, to attend the annual communication in Montreal. He was also appointed to serve on the important commission of the Grand Lodge of the United States which was organized, in New York, January 17, 1848, to hear and take testimony in the constitutional difficulties in the jurisdiction of New York, which resulted in a division of the State into two lodges.

In 1855 Mr. Ridgely was commissioned to visit the lodges in British North America under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of the United States. The results of his mission were highly satisfactory, and his report was an able document, replete with interesting and valuable service to the order. His zeal for Odd-Fellowship—zeal disciplined and guided by a matured judgment and a highly-cultivated mind—secured for him and his mission the esteem and confidence of the Canadian brethren, and he left them thoroughly impressed with the conviction that a connection with the Grand Lodge of the United States was best suited to their condition and ambition.

In 1828 he married Anna Jane, daughter of Major Jamison, of Baltimore. She died in 1835. In 1836 he married Esther P., second daughter of Major Jamison. He leaves three children—two sons and a daughter. His son, Henry Clay Ridgely, resides at Clay Hills, on Liberty road, Baltimore county, and represented the State in the last Legislature. The other son, James L. Ridgely, Jr., is engaged in agriculture, and resides at Harrisonville, Baltimore county. The daughter married Mr. W. W. Orndorff, of this city. The subordinate lodges to which Mr. Ridgely belonged were Marion, No. 2, and Jerusalem Encampment, No. 1. The Grand Lodge of Maryland will meet this evening at Odd-Fellows' Hall, Gay street, to take action in reference to his death. The funeral will take place Saturday afternoon, at one o'clock, from Odd-Fellows' Hall. The Grand Lodge office has been draped with mourning.

**Masonic.**—The Grand Lodge of Maryland resumed labor at 7 o'clock last evening. Officers were elected for the ensuing year as follows: