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HON. STANLEY E. FILKINS 1836-1914

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Stanley E. Filkins was born in Bethany, Genesee County on Feb. 19, 1836. His rudimentary learning was received through the common schools. He procured his higher level of education at the Grand River Institute in Ohio. Following the completion of his school career, Mr. Filkins moved to Batavia and began the study of law in the office of Brown & Glowarkie. His law course about half completed, he moved to East Randolph, Cattaraugus County where he completed his course of law with attorney Merrill T. Jenkins. He was admitted to the bar at Erie County in 1857.

In 1860 Mr. Filkins came to Medina and began the practice of law which he carried on until 1913. Records indicate that Mr. Filkins served as the attorney for the village of Medina in 1868. When the Medina Gas Light Co. was incorporated in 1871, he was among the five incorporating trustees. In 1893 Mr. Filkins along with Charles A. Gorman, bought a 30-acre parcel of the Tanner farm between the canal and railroad just east of Albion. Here in 1894 they opened a Medina Sandstone Quarry producing building and paving stone. The operation employed 25-30 men on a seasonal basis. Along with this he held a controlling interest in the Empire Couch Company of Medina.

From *Medina, Here's To Our Heritage* by Edsel Grinnell, we find that in June 1873 Mr. Filkins was granted a deed to the residential property at 811 West Ave. in Medina. This magnificent Italian Villa at the northeast corner of West Oak Orchard and West Avenue remains as one of the prime examples of the style locally. The house could have been built as early as 1869 by Samuel Ide and sons Warren and Alfred. Warren Ide was a carpenter, contractor, and speculator.

To his character and memory the Orleans County Bar Association made a lengthy tribute which was presented at a session of Supreme Court and County Court as a testimonial. In part it stated:

"For more than half a century Mr. Filkins was engaged as advocate in the arena of litigation, in which contest he knew no fear of adversary. In fact, his spirit yielded to death alone. Of him it may well be said that at all times he was a masterful man — a man upon whose strength his clients always confidently relied. From a poor boy, devoid both of powerful friends and of influence, by his own unaided efforts he grew to fortune and became one of the foremost attorneys in Western New York.

"He loved straightforwardness, loathing hypocrisy; he practiced exactitude, never indulging in



loose statement; he never assumed a matter of law, but always delved to the very bottom of any controversy in which he was engaged. As a trial lawyer he was particularly distinguished, in which respect his fame will survive for years to come.

"Mr. Filkins was a citizen of the best type, a man of high attainments and education, a lawyer of commanding ability, a character who has forever left its imprint on human affairs. In all of these respects, he commanded esteem. We take pride in his life's work, and we sincerely regret and mourn his death."

Mr. Filkins was survived by his wife Julia, a son Cedric E. Filkins of Medina and two daughters, Miss Bertha K. Filkins and Mrs. Emma L. Brady.

If one advances confidently
in the direction of his dreams,
and endeavors to live the
life which he has imagined
he will meet with a
success unexpected in
common hours.

Henry David Thoreau