

[Forster, George H.]

DIED AFTER HIS ELECTION

George H. Forster the Victim of Typhoid Fever
He Had Just Been Re-Elected President of the Board of Alderman
—As to His Successor

George H. Forster, President and President-elect of the Board of Alderman of this city, died at his home in Riverdale at 10:30 o'clock yesterday morning of typhoid fever. He had been confined to his house since Oct. 20, when he made his last appearance in court in the practice of his profession as counsel of Manager J. M. Hill in the suit of Margaret Mather against him. Until Wednesday his family at no time despaired of his ultimate recovery; but on that day he was taken with internal hemorrhage, and from that time he gradually sank in weakness and stupor until death came.

Mr. Forster was a native of Charlestown, Mass., where he was born June 20, 1838. His early education was acquired in the public schools and academies of his native town, and in 1853 he matriculated at Harvard University, from which he was graduated with distinguished honors in 1857. The succeeding four years of his life were spent in the employ of a railroad company, during which time Mr. Forster also pursued the study of the law. In 1861 he was admitted to the Bar, and at once settled down in this city and entered upon the practice of his chosen profession.

It was as a politician that Mr. Forster became most widely known. His first political venture was made in 1874, when he was the Republican candidate for Alderman at Large of New-York City, and was defeated. In 1876 as the Republican candidate he was elected to the Assembly from the First District of Westchester County, and in 1879 was elected Senator from the Eleventh District, defeating Thomas C. Ecclesine, anti-Tammany, and John B. Haskin, Tammany Democrat. In 1877 he was nominated by President [Rutherford B.] Hayes for District Attorney for the Southern District of New-York, in place of Gen. Stewart L. Woodford, but the nomination was withdrawn at his own request. He was the candidate of the Republican Party again in 1881, but this time for District Attorney of New-York County, but was defeated by John McKeon.

In 1882 he deserted the ranks of Republicanism and joined his political fortunes with Tammany Hall, becoming in a short time the Tammany leader in the Twenty-fourth Ward. He became the candidate of Tammany Hall for District Attorney in 1884, but again suffered defeat, this time at the hands of Randolph B. Martine, the candidate of the County Democracy. Last year Tammany Hall made him its candidate for President of the Board of Aldermen, and he was elected, taking his seat on the 1st of January. The term was a year, and has not yet expired. At the last session of the

[Forster, George H.]

Legislature the term of office of the President of the Board of Alderman was extended to two years, and at Tuesday's election Mr. Forster was elected for the long term.

Mr. Forster leaves a wife and two sons, 20 and 15 years of age, respectively. His brother, Mr. T. P. Forster, will have charge of the funeral arrangements, which will not be ready for announcement until some time today. In honor of the deceased official the national and municipal flags were floated at half mast from the City Hall and other municipal buildings. As soon as he learned of Mr. Forster's death Mayor Hewitt sent a message to the Board of Aldermen announcing the fact, speaking of his death as a popular loss, and suggesting that the board take measures appropriate to the occasion and [to] the high esteem in which he was held in the community. The board appointed a committee to draft resolutions of sorrow and make arrangements for the funeral.

[Five additional paragraphs on the subject of electing Forster's successor to the Board of Aldermen are omitted here.]

New York Times, New York NY, 9 Nov 1888

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[Forster, George H.]

IN AND ABOUT THE CITY

The funeral ceremonies over the body of George H. Forster, President of the Board of Alderman, occurred at the Universalist Church of the Divine Paternity, at Fifth-avenue and Forty-fifth street, yesterday morning. Mr. Forster had been a Trustee of this church for many years, was part of the time President of the Board, and was a constant attendant upon its services. In obedience to the wishes of the widow the Episcopal burial service was performed, the Rev. Dr. Rainsford assisting the Rev. Dr. [Charles H.] Eaton in its celebration.

The funeral procession started at 10 promptly, the Rev. Drs. Rainsford and Eaton leading, followed by the body in charge of the undertaker. Then came the widow, supported on the arm of her elder son, the mother of the deceased and the younger son, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick P. Forster, brother and sister-in-law of the deceased, and other relatives and immediate friends. There were also present delegations of the Harvard Alumni of Mr. Forster's graduating class, of the Schnorer Club, the Board of Aldermen, and large numbers of city and county officials.

Among others were Mayor Hewitt, ex-Mayor W. R. Grace, Surrogate Ransom, Mayor-elect Hugh J. Grant, ex-Mayor Wickham, Fire Commissioner Richard Croker, County Clerk James A. Flack, R. M. Strebeith, Thomas F. Gilroy, ex-Judge Leslie W. Russell, Judge Martino, District Attorney Fellows, Corporation Counsel Beekman, Edgar L. Ridgeway, ex-President Spencer of the Aqueduct Commission, N. L. Cort, Herman Hebert, Senator Reilly, D. D. Youmans, George Stetson, ex-Judge Charles Donohue, Senator Ives, Police-Justice Duffy, Street Commissioner James S. Coleman, Park Commissioner J. Hampden Robb, Register James J. Slevin, Park Commissioners Thomas S. Brennan and H. H. Porter, and Police Commissioner Fitz John Porter. The interment was at Woodlawn.

New York Times, New York NY, 14 Nov 1888

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