

## [Graham, James S.]

J. S. Graham Dies; Former Postmaster  
G.A.R. Veteran; Prominent in Business and Politics; Mason 61 Years

Colonel James S. Graham, Civil War veteran and one of the oldest Masons in the United States, died yesterday at his home, No. 296 Frank street. He was 91 years old. Until his retirement twenty-five years ago, he was prominent in the business and political life of the city, having been postmaster of Rochester. He was appointed by President McKinley and served eight years. He also served two terms in the New York State Assembly.

Colonel Graham had been a Mason 61 years, observing this anniversary on June 12th last. He was born in Edinburgh, Scotland on May 27, 1836, and came to this country when 4 years old. He attended the Rochester public schools and afterward learned the machinist trade. After distinguished service in the Union army, in which he acquired his title in the Civil War, Colonel Graham returned to Rochester, and in 1867 established a machinery manufacturing business with the late William Gleason as partner. He continued to supervise this business personally until 1902, when he retired as president of the J. S. Graham Machine Company, leaving his son William J. in charge.

Colonel Graham made his first appearance in public life as a member of the New York Assembly in 1869. He was re-elected to that office in 1875. He was a Republican and a personal friend of the late George W. Aldridge. Mr. Aldridge recommended Colonel Graham's appointment as postmaster.

Colonel Graham was an original member of the Rochester Park Board, and served in that capacity until [1902?]. He was a life member of the Grand Army of the Republic, having been elected department commander for the state of New York on May 20, 1896. He belonged to the E. G. Marshall Post in this city and for many years was head of the Women's Relief Corps home in Oxford.

He was also a life member of Yonnondio Lodge of Masons, Rochester Yacht Club, Loyal Legion, Society of the Genesee, Hamilton Chapter, Royal Arch Masons, and Dome Council, Royal and Select Masters.

Colonel Graham is survived by his son, William J. Graham, and two grandchildren.

*Democrat and Chronicle*, Rochester NY, Mon. 7 Nov 1927

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### Last Rites Conducted for Colonel Graham

Funeral services for Colonel James S. Graham, Civil War veteran and one of the oldest Masons in this country, took place yesterday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock at the home, No. 296 Frank street. Rev. William Wallace Rose, minister of the First Universalist Church, conducted the services. E. G. Marshall Post, G.A.R., of which Colonel Graham was a member, also officiated at the home. The flag bearers of E. G. Marshall Women's Relief Corps attended.

Officers and representatives of the clerks' and carriers' associations of the Rochester postoffice, headed by Assistant Postmaster George J. Sullivan, attended the services. Delegations from the G.A.R. and Masonic bodies also attended.

Interment was made in Mount Hope Cemetery, where Masonic services were conducted by Yonnondio Lodge.

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Transcribed on 16 Feb 2008 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY