

[Lutes, John]

## JOHN LUTES DEAD

One of Rochester's Leading Citizens Passes Away  
Close of an Honorable and Useful Career—Sketch of the Life of Deceased—  
Cause of His Unexpected Death

Hon. John Lutes died at 8:10 o'clock this morning at his home, 12 Frank st. The announcement will cause general surprise, as even intimate friends of the deceased have been unaware that he was seriously ill. For many months, of course, he has been ailing more or less, but still he was able to be around and attend to his duties until a few days ago. On the day before Christmas he met with a mishap which, though slight in itself, was dangerous by reason of his advanced age. It seems that gifts for the grandchildren of Mr. Lutes were stored away in the hall, and when he entered he stumbled over some of the articles and fell heavily to the floor. He arose but the shock to his system was severe. He walked out every day, however, but not feeling strong, was obliged to abandon his duties at the city poor department office. On New Year's Day he went out of the house for the last time. Sunday afternoon he was taken with paralysis of the heart. He was unconscious after 12:00 Sunday midnight.

John Lutes was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, Nov. 14, 1815, and at the time of his death was therefore 71 years of age. At the age of 14 he left Germany with his parents. It was over a half-century ago when he settled in Rochester. He often related to his younger friends during late years the circumstances of his trip here. The great railroads entering the city were not yet constructed and the journey was made on a canal boat. The tediousness of the trip and the appearance of the city at that time were subjects on which he often talked, and very entertaining were his descriptions. Arriving here he secured employment as a millwright. Subsequently he started in business for himself, and for many years conducted a shop on Mill street. He was successful in business and made considerable money, placing himself in comfortable circumstances.

[On] October 23, 1842, Mr. Lutes married Miss C. [Catherine] N. Bonesteel of Greece, who survives. Four children were born. Two daughters died, one [Florence A.] about fourteen years ago and the other [Linda J.] about eighteen months ago. The surviving children are Mrs. Frank [Alice C.] Defendorf and George C. Lutes, and there are five grandchildren.

In 1865 Mr. Lutes took up his residence on Frank street and had lived there ever since with the exception of short intervals, during which he lived on Lake avenue and on his farm in Greece.

In 1867 the residents of the Second ward elected him alderman. In 1870 he was elected Mayor of the city after an exciting contest. Three years ago

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next March he was appointed Overseer of the Poor by the Common Council and a year ago he was again appointed. In all these offices he discharged his duties faithfully and with marked ability. As Mayor he carefully guarded the city's interests, and as alderman he served his constituents in a manner which merited and received the highest encomium. In his last office, which he held up to the time of his death, he displayed admirably the quality of his heart and judgment. He was peculiarly fitted for the position, and under his administration the Poor department has done excellent work in relieving the needy and distressed. His disposition was a guarantee that the deserving poor would receive succor while his natural shrewdness was invaluable in detecting attempts at imposition. All through his official life he was a man of honor and integrity, and this gained for him the sobriquet, "Honest John Lutes." In politics he was a sound and consistent Democrat. Personally he was genial and sociable. Among all classes of people he had hosts of friends. Few men have been as widely known as he. All who knew him admired and respected him, and his death will be sincerely regretted throughout the city.

Besides the city offices mentioned, Mr. Lutes held other positions of trust and responsibility. He was one of the originators of the German Insurance Company and the vice-president since it started. He was one of the directors of the Genesee Valley Railroad. He stood high in the Masonic fraternity, being a member of Germania Lodge of Perfection, also of A. A. Scottish rites.

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Transcribed on 5 Nov 2008 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY