

[Richards, William Woodbury]

LIVED NEARLY A CENTURY

Death of William Woodbury Richards at the Advanced Age of 97 Years  
—Sketch of His Life

William Woodbury Richards, one of the oldest residents in the city died Friday night at 7 o'clock at his residence on upper State street. He was 97 years old. He had been in failing health the past year and for five months was confined to the bed. Mr. Richards was born Jan. 28, 1808, at Hampstead, N. H. He was one of five children of William and Emma Richards, who were born and spent their whole lives in Hampstead, the father living to be 92 and the mother 94. Mr. Richards left his boyhood home at an early age, and went to Haverhill, Mass., where he was apprenticed as a shoemaker, and after learning his trade was employed twelve years as a cutter by J. D. Putnam & Company, of Haverhill, one of the largest shoe manufacturing concerns in the country. From Haverhill he went to Danvers, Mass., where he engaged in truck gardening, and from Danvers he went to Boston. In March, 1862, Mr. Richards and his wife removed to Ogdensburg, and he was first employed here by the late Alden Vilas as a shoemaker. Later he gave up his trade for agricultural pursuits and for many years engaged in farming and gardening. One of the last farms he occupied was the Tallman farm on the outskirts of the city. After that, he devoted himself entirely to market gardening until advancing age led to his retirement.

Mr. Richards was a strong, robust man of iron constitution, and was rarely sick a day. He came of good old Yankee stock and had a strong love for his country. When the Civil war broke out he was among the first to offer his services for the flag, and his disappointment was great when he was rejected on account of his age. Mr. Richards cast his first presidential vote when 21 years of age, and he had never failed to vote at every election from that time until 1904, when he could not get to the polls. He was a stalwart Republican from the time of the organization of the party. Up to the very last he retained all his faculties and as he was dying he recognized his wife at his bedside and spoke rationally to her. His sense of hearing was good and until two years ago he read everything he came across. Then his eyes began to fail, and although he did not lose his sight he could not get glasses which would give him back the power to read fine print.

Mr. Richards was the father of four children, all of whom are dead. His wife, who ministered to him tenderly, alone survives, as he had no blood relatives living. He was a Universalist and the funeral was conducted Sunday afternoon from his late home by Rev. Dr. Fisher.

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