

## [Smith, William Tecumseh]

WAS A LEADING BUSINESS MAN

William T. Smith Passed Away Last Night

SUFFERED LONG ILLNESS

But Was Able to be Out Each Day and Yesterday Visited His Store

—Record of Man Who Held General Respect

William T. Smith died at his home, 9 Summit place, at 10 o'clock last night, after an extended illness. Though his ailment, tuberculosis of the throat, had greatly weakened him, he was able to drive to his store each day and made the trip between 4 and 6 o'clock yesterday afternoon, though he complained then of feeling worse than usual. He was sitting in a chair in his room, where he had been conversing with his wife a few minutes before, when he laid his head back, lost consciousness and passed away.

Mr. Smith's last illness developed in the summer of 1900, from catarrh of the throat, with which he had long been afflicted. He was a patient sufferer. Mr. Smith was a man who held the respect and esteem of the entire community.

William Tecumseh Smith was born in New Hartford, Oneida County, January 1, 1857. His parents removed to Ackrington, England, where his boyhood days were spent. At the age of 12 years he returned to this city, and soon after entered the employ of N. Hollister, stationer and book seller, where he was engaged in delivering newspapers and periodicals.—He afterward became a salesman and obtained a thorough knowledge of the business. Later he was employed by the wholesale dry goods house of John C. Hieber as bookkeeper. In 1877 he formed a co-partnership with Henry M. Bristol and the firm of Bristol A. Smith bought out the book and stationery stock of Whipple and Alfred Hollister. The firm moved to 149 Genesee street and did business there for some time. In the meantime Mr. Bristol went West and at St. Paul, Minn., established the firm of Bristol, Smith & Freeman, which was engaged in the same business. At the end of about a year Mr. Smith, who had not left Utica, sold out his interest in this business, but continued his Utica store at 169 Genesee street. John L. Grant, who had been in Mr. Smith's employ, had gone to Syracuse, but returned and in 1888, with Fred W. Luker, formed the present firm of W. T. Smith & Co. For the past fifteen or sixteen years the firm has been doing a large retail and wholesale business in books, stationery and wall paper at 146 Genesee street Arcade. It is one of the largest concerns of this kind in this section of the State. Mr. Smith was one of the organizers and directors of the Liberty Wall Paper Company, which does business at Schuylerville, Tompkins County. It is one of the largest concerns in the wall paper line in this country and has been very successful. Mr. Smith was one of the directors at

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the time of his death. Mr. Smith was also a director in the Utica Heater Company, which was organized in 1889 for the manufacture of hot air furnaces. He was one of the best penmen in the city.

Mr. Smith had, by his own efforts, attained a high and important place in the business life of the community. His was an exemplary life and the rules he followed in business and in all relations with his fellow men were of the highest. Frank and straightforward on every occasion, his word was as good as a bond and he was a man who everywhere inspired respect and confidence. Mr. Smith had a genial temperament and cheerful disposition and it was a pleasure to meet and converse with him.

Mr. Smith was a member of Faxton Lodge, F. & A. M., of Imperial Council, Royal Arcanum, had been a director in the Arcanum Club and was a member of the Utica Chamber of Commerce and of the Oneida Historical Society. He was a member of the [Universalist] Church of the Reconciliation and had served as one of its trustees. He was one of the first directors in the Consolidated Retail Booksellers' Association.

In October, 1878, Mr. Smith married Miss Elizabeth French, daughter of James O. French, who survives. He leaves no children or other near relatives.

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Transcribed on 25 Jul 2008 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY