

[Tilyou, Abram]

## ABRAM TILYOU

Abram Tilyou, aged ninety-four years, a lifelong resident of Van Hornesville, died at midnight Friday of last week at his home there after an illness of four days. He was Owen D. Young's personal friend and advisor and was designated by Mr. Young his "rocking chair consultant" in building of the beautiful model stone school house at Van Hornesville. Death resulted from a stroke, which the venerable man suffered a few days ago.

He was born November 25, 1837, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Tilyou, and resided on a farm on the neighboring hills for many years. Later he moved to that village to reside, his home being only a short distance from Mr. Young's residence, and the two were inseparable companions whenever the statesman financier was in town.

In politics Mr. Tilyou was a Republican and was well known throughout the county. He was treasurer and salesman for the old Van Hornesville cheese factory. He was instrumental in the formation of the Van Hornesville Universalist Church June 5, 1876, about forty comprising the congregation, under the Rev. Mr. Fuller.

He ran for the office of sheriff against Sylvester J. Wilson, former Herkimer Chief of Police, and lost by a small margin. He was the last of the official witnesses of the hanging of Mrs. Roxalana Druse, which took place forty-four years ago last Saturday at Herkimer.

In the early seventies he was undersheriff under the late Alexander Smith of the town of Stark, and also served in that office at other times. In the political fight for the Supreme Court judgeship, between the late Senator Albert M. Mills of Little Falls and Abram M. Steele of Herkimer, Mr. Tilyou was a supporter of Steele, who won the fight.

He was also interested in the ill-fated Fort Plain-Cooperstown railroad line, which he surveyed, but never constructed. He also had served the town as trustee and also supervisor for one term. He was a member of Evergreen Lodge, F. & A.M. of Springfield Center.

Surviving are his widow, formerly Miss Hannah Turner, and one son, Willard J. of Schenectady.

The funeral was held Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock from the home, the Rev. Rufus H. Dix, pastor of the Universalist church at Fort Plain, officiating, and the remains placed in the vault for interment in the spring.

*Otsego Farmer*, Cooperstown NY, Fri. 6 Mar 1931