

[Tuller, Melvin]

## MELVIN TULLER

Melvin Tuller, who until a few months ago was an active merchant in this village, and the last of the old war-time business men, died at his residence on Main street last Thursday evening at 11 o'clock, after an illness of several months. There was a gradual decline of the physical powers until the end came very peacefully, much as Mr. Tuller had lived. The deceased was the son of Henry Tuller, one of the pioneers of this town whose forebears came from Connecticut. Squire Tuller erected the Tuller House, which still bears his name, and is one of the best known of the summer hotels of the country. Melvin Tuller was born in this village in 1838 and therefore was 71 years of age at the time of his death. He was educated here, and entered the mercantile business at the age of 17, becoming at 21 the proprietor of a drug store located in this village, on the site of the old Davenport House. He had been an active business man here for half a century. In 1867 he acquired a half interest in the general store known as Elwood & Tuller's, and located on the corner of Main and Lake, which will be known as long as the present generation lives as Tuller's Corners. His partner was Hon. A. R. Elwood. In 1873 the firm established the first banking house of the village, which they operated in conjunction with the mercantile business. The firm remained unchanged until 1881, when the death of Mr. Elwood occurred. From that time Mr. Tuller was the sole proprietor of the store until 1893, when he took his son, Charles M., into the business with him, and the firm has since been styled as M. Tuller & Son. The late Allen J. Bloomfield succeeded Mr. Elwood as a partner in the bank and they conducted the business until 1882, at that time selling their joint interests to the First National Bank, which had just been organized.

Mr. Tuller was married in 1861 to Miss Flora Burgess, who survives him with four children: Nettie B., the wife of Dr. H. A. Ward of this village; Charles M.; Marie Rose, wife of James McKee, cashier of the First National Bank here; and William Niles, a civil engineer located in Pittsfield, Mass. By a pathetic coincidence another son, Henry H., died six years ago, two days later than his father, thus twice saddening the Tuller household at a season when joy should reign supreme. Mr. Tuller had been a member of the First Universalist Church for years, and served as one of its board of trustees and treasurer of the parish. He was also a member of Richfield Springs Lodge No. [482?], F. and A.M. In his political faith he was unswervingly Republican, although he refrained from office holding except in a purely civic sense, having been for many years a member of the village board and the Board of Education. His services in those bodies came at a time when it was a labor requiring business sense and excellent judgment, both qualities

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being possessed by the deceased to a marked degree. He was a member of the village board when the water system was constructed, and while in the Board of Education the present union school was erected. There was much stress of feeling at the latter time, but Mr. Tuller stood by the subject, and the boys and girls who have gone forth from that institution may remember with gratitude the part he took in their behalf. His work at this time and prior to it should stand as a monument to his memory. His integrity as a business man was unassailable, and his citizenship of the sturdiest type, but best of all were the elements in his nature that appeared in his home life, where for nearly a half century he was the constant companion, the indulgent parent, and the faithful husband. Those who knew him there paid tribute to his affection, his good nature, and the rare qualities he possessed. On Sunday at 2 p.m. Rev. Frank O. Hokerk conducted the funeral ceremonies at the Tuller residence on Main street and the remains were deposited in the vault at Lakewood Cemetery, [ \_\_\_? missing] he having for years been a faithful member of the Board of Trustees. Mr. Tuller is also survived by a sister, Mrs. N. D. Jewell of this village, and a brother, William Henry of Rome. The deceased had a long and honorable business career in this town and had lived a useful life, marked by success and the esteem of his fellows.

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Transcribed on 18 Feb 2008 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY