

[Elwell, James]

DEATH OF AN OLD ROME CITIZEN

James Elwell, for Many Years a Prominent Business Man,
Passes to the Beyond

James Elwell, one of Rome's respected citizens, died at 10 a.m. Friday at the family residence, 123 east Liberty street, the cause of death being diabetes, with which he had suffered the past two years. The last time Mr. Elwell was down town was ten days ago, and he gave up his business about a year ago.

Mr. Elwell was born in Schuyler, July 31, 1824; at the age of about 17 he went to Little Falls, where as an apprentice he learned the harness trade with Silas Clark. In 1843 Mr. Clark came here and opened a harness shop and store in the place now occupied by Col. P. J. Casler's wine house, and he brought with him Mr. Elwell and another employe [sic], the late Charles Keith of this city. In 1850 Keith and Elwell purchased Mr. Clark's interest and they conducted the place about two years, when Mr. Elwell purchased Mr. Keith's interest and conducted the place alone for about two years, when he took in as a partner William Rathbun, and they continued about two years, when Mr. Elwell purchased the interests of his partner and continued alone for about four years. He sold out to Keith & Barnard.

Mr. Elwell went to Colorado, where he engaged in gold mining about a year, having invested in the Tinderlock Mining company, but the venture was not successful.

After returning to Rome Mr. Elwell went into business with the late Whitman B. Williams, and for a year they carried on a stone yard. In the course of that time they laid 32,000 feet of flag walks in Rome. In 1881 Mr. Elwell became to agent for the Texas Loan Company and he carried on that business down to the time when he gave up business entirely.

On November 3, 1851 Mr. Elwell married Miss Emily Barnard of Lee, who survives; also one daughter, Mrs. James W. Kittrell of Catskill, N.Y. who was with her father when he died, and two sisters, Mrs. Lucippa Marlatt of Honeoye Falls, N.Y., and Mrs. Eliza Harris of Frankfort.

Mr. Elwell was a member of the Universalist church, and of Roman Lodge, F. and A. M., being one of the oldest members of that lodge. He was a public spirited man, and he possessed the respect and confidence of all who had the pleasure of his acquaintance. He has held a number of important public offices. He was elected a trustee of the village of Rome from the first ward in 1865 and was re-elected in 1868. For several years he was on the board of trustees of the Central New York Institution for Deaf Mutes. He has also served the city as assessor and collector. He was one of the early members of the Oneida county Agricultural society, of which, in 1869, he was elected treasurer. He filled that office 16 years. For four years he was clerk for the superintendent of this section of the Erie Canal.

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