

By the death of Jacob W. Elseffer, which occurred at his home in this village on Friday afternoon, November 15th, Red Hook has lost one of its oldest, most prominent, and enterprising citizens. He had always been a resident of Red Hook, and his practice of law for more than sixty years was confined to this place, where his reputation had grown rapidly and placed him as one of the first in the list of lawyers in the County. He always took a lively interest in the growth and prosperity of the village and its institutions. He organized the First National Bank of Red Hook, and was elected President of the same. He was continued as a director from year to year, and was also attorney for the bank for a long time, and much credit has been awarded to him for the favorable condition of its affairs. The deceased was the son of John Elseffer, once Member of Assembly from this district, and Katharine Whiteman. He was eighty-five years old at his death, having been born September 6, 1822. He married Delia Eliza Bonesteel of Clermont, N. Y., October 3, 1847, and is survived by a son, John H. Elseffer, of San Diego, California, and daughter, Katharine, wife of William P. Adams, of Cohoes, N. Y., and two granddaughters, Elizabeth Platt Adams and Katharine Elseffer Adams. Mrs. Elseffer died October 20th, 1888, and November 11th, 1890, Mr. Elseffer married Harriet E., daughter of the late Frederick Mesick, of Claverack, N. Y., who died April 20, 1907. He was of a social nature, and very fond of entertaining friends at his home "Mapleton." Mr. Elseffer was a member of the fraternity of F. & A. M. In April 1855, at the first meeting of Monumental Lodge, No. 374, after its organization he petitioned for membership and at once became an ardent and zealous member. During the year 1850 he served the lodge as its Master and much of the early prosperity of the lodge was due to his activity and zeal. At the time of his death he enjoyed the proud distinction of being its oldest member and the Senior Past Master. His funeral was held at his late residence on Monday at 2 p. m., after which his mortal remains were borne to the Lutheran cemetery and there deposited in their final resting place, with the highest Masonic honors which can be paid to a Master Mason.

At a meeting of the Board of Directors of the First National Bank of Red Hook, held Monday, Nov. 18th, 1907, the following was adopted:

Whereas—Death has removed from our number Jacob W. Elseffer, the founder of this institution and one of its life-long ardent supporters, acting in the capacity of President and as a Director for many years, giving his valuable aid and experience for its welfare, which contributed largely to its success.

Resolved—That we tender to the sorrowing ones our heartfelt sympathy, remembering that while we feel the loss of a valued associate and friend, they mourn the loss of one who was bound to them by the most sacred ties.

Resolved—That this expression of our appreciation of his services be spread upon the minutes of the Bank and published in the Red Hook Journal.

Committee.

At a regular Communication of Monumental Lodge, No. 379, F. & A. M., held Nov. 20th, the following was unanimously adopted:

Whereas—It has pleased the Great Architect of the Universe to remove from us by death, our well beloved and Wor. Bro., Jacob W. Elseffer, therefore be it

Resolved—That while we bow in humble submission to the will of One who doeth all things well, we recognize that in the death of our Brother, our Lodge has lost one, who by good and faithful services rendered in its earlier days has done much to perpetuate the life of our Lodge and exemplify in his daily walk and life the tenets of Free Masonry. The community has lost an upright and honorable citizen and christian gentleman, and his family an indulgent and affectionate father and wise counsellor.

Resolved—In recognition of his sterling worth as man and Mason that a copy of these resolutions be spread upon our records and published in the Tivoli Times and Red Hook Journal, and a copy furnished to the family of our deceased Brother.

John F. Silver,  
Sec'y.

Frank Fisher,  
W. M.

At a meeting of the officers and members of St. Peter's (Stone) Church, Rhinebeck, the following was adopted:

WHEREAS—God, in His inscrutable providence, on the 15th day of Nov. 1907, called Mr. Jacob W. Elseffer from his earthly home: from his dear children and loved ones who survive him, from numerous friends in all stations of life, from the community in which he always manifested a keen interest, from the church on earth and its work to the church triumphant and its rest; and

WHEREAS—God, in His good providence, lengthened his years to more than four score and five, and gave him an honorable, honored and useful life, to both the church and community, and that for many years he was a devoted member of St. Peter's Evan. Lutheran (Stone) Church, of Rhinebeck, N. Y., laying down the armor at her shrine, and that even in his declining years and enfeebled state of body he was, notwithstanding, when possible in his pew at public worship, an attentive and appreciative auditor. It was a cross for him to be deprived of the services of the sanctuary, yearning for the peace, prosperity and perpetuity of his church, therefore,

RESOLVED—That we the officers and members of St. Peter's Church, give this public expression to our deep sorrow at the departure of our dear fellow laborer and brother, and thereby testify to his worth and worthiness, and that we deeply feel our loss in that "his seat is empty," and that we shall see his genial face no more nor clasp his cordial hand ever extended alike to rich and poor, this side the Celestial City. In meek humility we bow and say with holy fear, "Thy Will, O God, Not Mine Be Done."

RESOLVED—That we greatly appreciate the life God gave us in the person of our beloved brother, the example he set for us of attachment to and interest in the church, to respect and revere the pastor as God's anointed, to be constantly looking to and laboring for the advancement of the church in both temporal and spiritual interests.