



William David Thomas

William David Thomas was born in Middle Granville on March 22, 1880, the son of David and Mary McKenzie Thomas. He attended public schools and graduated from the Middle Granville High School. Mr. Thomas went to Union College and the Albany School of Pharmacy. He graduated in 1904 and accepted a job in Hoosick Falls as a pharmacist working for George A. Ross. He later went into partnership with C.F.W. Smith and ran the pharmacy by himself starting in 1920 under the name Thomas Pharmacy.

Mr. Thomas was married on July 24, 1907, to Carolyn Haffner of Brooklyn, New York. It was Mrs. Thomas who persuaded Grandma Moses to display her paintings in public for the first time at the Thomas Pharmacy.

Thomas was interested in civic affairs and became involved in politics. He became a Republican Committeeman for the First District of the Town of Hoosick and was always at the local polls during elections. In 1917, Thomas ran for Town Clerk and served four two-year terms. When a vacancy occurred in the State Assembly in 1925, Mr. Thomas was appointed to the seat. In 1927, he ran for county treasurer and served for two three-year terms until 1933. In 1927, he was elected County Chairman of the Republican Party and held this position for seven years. He became a member of Congress through a special election, having the distinction of being the only pharmacist in the 73rd Congress. Thomas was reelected to the 74th Congress and served from January 30, 1934, until his death on May 17, 1936.

Flags on the Capitol flew at half-staff in Thomas's honor. His body was sent home by train and lay in state at his home on Classic Street. His funeral was held at the Presbyterian Church on Church Street, Hoosick Falls. A delegation from Congress attended. All business in the village and town ceased during the funeral. Thomas was buried in the Maple Grove Cemetery. Tributes to the late congressman arrived from all over the country.