

OLD RESIDENT OF THE CITY, THOMAS GILLESPIE, IS DEAD

Operated Windsor Hotel For Many Years; Was Colorful Figure in City and Was Familiarly Known as "Silver Tom"

Thomas Gillespie, a resident of Stratford for almost half a century and for many years proprietor of the Windsor Hotel of which he was the owner, died shortly after ten o'clock this morning in his suite in the hotel, where he had made his home. In ailing health for the past few years Mr. Gillespie had been seriously ill only since Monday. He was believed to have been 84 years of age.

The life of Thomas Gillespie had been a colorful one and he was a widely-known citizen in the earlier life of the city. Familiarly known as "Silver Tom," Mr. Gillespie acquired that name by the fact that when he first came to Stratford some fifty years ago he sold silver polish. Then he started to work for "Lord" Raglan, who operated a tobacco store and barber shop on Downie street. Some years later Thomas Gillespie went into the tobacco business on Ontario street, starting up the Senate.

For more than thirty-five years Mr. Gillespie had been owner and proprietor of the Windsor Hotel

and he owned all the property on the south side of Albert street from Dr. Lone Robertson's residence to Downie street. It was a number of years ago that he retired from active business. On first entering the hotel business Mr. Gillespie operated the Windsor for a syndicate of local men and a few years later he bought the property from members of the syndicate.

"Silver Tom" Gillespie was a great friend of the late Premier J. P. Whitney of Ontario and also a friend of the late J. P. Maybee, formerly of Stratford and at one time railroad commissioner. On one occasion Mr. Maybee invited Mr. Gillespie to travel through the western provinces in his private car, Mr. Maybee going to the West on railroad business.

Mr. Gillespie was twice married, his second wife having died in 1929. Born at Morrisburg, Ont., Mr. Gillespie is believed to have been the last of his family. As far as could be determined there are surviving two nieces, Miss Agnes Gillespie of Morrisburg, and a niece in New York. No funeral arrangements have yet been made.