



Name: Alvan Tufts Fuller
Date of Birth/Details: 2/27/1878, Charlestown (Boston), Mass., Suffolk County
Son of Alvan Bond Fuller and Flora A. (Tufts) Fuller
Residence: Willow Avenue through to Ocean Blvd, North Hampton,
NH (site only) and Fuller Gardens, 10 Willow Avenue,
North Hampton, NH
Date of Death/Details: 4/30/1958, Boston, MS, Little River Cemetery, North
Hampton, New Hampshire

Massachusetts House of Representative 1914 - 1916
United States Representative, Commonwealth of Massachusetts 1916 - 1920
Lieutenant Governor, Commonwealth of Massachusetts 1921 - 1924
Governor, Commonwealth of Massachusetts 1925 – 1929

Alvin Tufts Fuller built "Fuller Gardens" to honor his wife Viola, who shared his love for horticulture, in North Hampton, New Hampshire at 10 Willow Avenue. Designed in the Colonial Revival style in the early 1920's by the noted landscape architect Arthur Shurtleff, with additions in the 1930's by Olmstead Brothers, the gardens receive thousands of visitors each summer season and are operated by the Fuller Foundation of New Hampshire.

When still a teenager, Fuller started and ran a bicycle repair shop in Malden, Massachusetts, where his father worked in the newspaper business. He became champion cyclist. Although his formal schooling ended at age 15, he always gave credit to his home town library and church for enabling him to complete his education.

At 21 years old, in 1899, when automobiles first began to be manufactured, he sold his racing prizes and used the money to travel to Europe, where he bought two cars and had them shipped to Port of Boston. They were the first automobiles to be imported through that port. By 1904, he had opened a Packard Motor Car dealership in Boston, located at 1089 Commonwealth Avenue. It was referred to as “Fuller’s Folly” because it was built in a swampy area a distance from downtown.

On 7/12/1910, he married Viola Davenport. By 1920 his automobile dealership was recognized as the world's most successful.

During his administration, Governor Fuller faced a significant budget deficit leading to initiatives to reduce and economize the operations of state government. The fear of the spread of communism or the "Red Scare" combined with labor issues continued to be in the forefront of the national consciousness, manifesting itself in the Sacco and Vanzetti Murder Trial. Nicola Saco and Batholomeo Vanzetti were convicted of murdering a payroll guard during a robbery. Governor Fuller refuse to pardon them or further delay their executions.

He was a protege' of Theodore Roosevelt, defeated James Michael Curley for the Massachusetts Governorship and was strongly considered for the Vice Presidency at the 1932 Republican Convention. He never cashed a paycheck as Congressman, Lieutenant Governor or Governor. These checks, totaling over \$80,000, were left to his sons as "souvenirs of my public service.”

Following his tenure in public life, Governor Fuller returned to his auto dealership and served as Chairman of the Board of Cadillac-Oldsmobile Company of Boston.

He was a superb collector of art and among those painters represented in his collection were: Renoir, Rembrandt, Turner, Gainsborough, Sargent, Monet, Van Dyck, Romney, Boccaccino, Boucher and Reynolds. His paintings were donated to the National Gallery of Art in Washington and The Museum of Fine Arts in Boston.

His philanthropy was wide ranging and included art, hospitals, education, religion, municipalities and social services. He established The Fuller Foundation, Inc. He was a member of Freemasons, Elks, Knights of Pythias, and Odd Fellows.



Summer Home (Center) Of Massachusetts's Ex. Governor Alvin T. Fuller, in North Hampton, NH

Mansion (now – site only)

Fuller Garden



http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alvan_T._Fuller

<http://politicalgraveyard.com/bio/fuller.html>

<http://www.mass.gov/statehouse/massgovs/afuller.htm>

<http://www.fullerfoundation.org/FullerFoundation/founder.htm>

North Hampton Heritage Walks, The North Hampton Historical Society, 2000

Little River Cemetery

<http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=F000405>