

Obituary Of ⁶⁻¹²⁻ ₁₉₂₈ James E. Anderson

(Montezuma Republican).

In the passing of James E. Anderson, Montezuma loses one of her longtime residents, one of her best known business men and one of her most altruistic and highly respected citizens, and the Methodist Church loses one of her most ardent and faithful supporters and members.

James Edwin Anderson, the third child of Edwin and Martha Cheshire Anderson, was born in the farm home called Clarksville in Davie County, North Carolina, on October 26th, 1862, and died at the Hospital at Mt. Pleasant at ten o'clock on Wednesday evening, May 30th, 1928, aged 66 years, seven months, and four days.

The family came to Iowa about 1870, settling in Sugar Creek Township and later coming to Montezuma.

The deceased received his schooling in Montezuma, and one of his early teachers was Mrs. Laura Willett. When about ten years of age he went into F. A. Kilbourn's store as a clerk, and when older worked for Jordan and Stone, both in Montezuma and in Ottumwa. Later he was in charge of a clothing department in one of the stores in Grinnell. In May 1890 he went in a partnership in Montezuma with P. A. Finnegan. In 1894 Mr. Finnegan sold out, and Mr. Anderson went into a happy partnership with John Bradley, which lasted for the next 12 years, when Mr. Bradley sold out to Mr. Anderson who has since with his son, conducted the store.

He was happily married on September 2nd, 1888 to Alice Gertrude Underwood, who survives him. To this union were born four children Harlan, and Mrs. Esther Moore of Montezuma, Mrs. F. A. Gordon of Marshalltown and Paul H. Anderson of Evansville, Indiana, all of whom, and four grandchildren, survive him.

Mr. Anderson was an unusual man in many ways. He had a keen mind, and a remarkable memory, not only for events of past experience, but for speeches, conversations, and things which he had read. He made the most of his opportunities, and while not a college man, was well informed upon many lines. He had an insatiable curiosity, was an inveterate reader, and eagerly devoured every bit of information that came his way, and was always interested in the great movements of the times.

He was a good business man and made fast friends of his customers, many of whom have dealt with the firm through a long number of years.

He was industrious, kind, congenial, thoughtful of others, and was cheerful, and optimistic.

As a citizen he was keenly alive to community welfare, and threw himself whole-heartedly into whatever community work he undertook. He was one of the original chautauqua boosters and was active in its management for a number of years.

From a young man he has been interested in everything relating to the Church, and for years was a member of the Official Board. He came into the Church when just a young man, and through the years has been a devout, earnest Christian, true to his Lord, and maintaining a Christ like attitude toward others.

He was very devoted to his family indulging them to the limit of his ability, and making every sacrifice for their sake.

He was a Mason having been raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason away back in 1885 or thereabouts. He was also a member of the Knights of Pythias lodge of this place.

Mr. Anderson has been in failing health for a year or more, and on Wednesday evening about six o'clock he sank into a stupor brought on by a complication of diabetes and apoplexy, and about ten o'clock passed quietly away without regaining consciousness.

Besides his companion, he leaves to mourn, one brother Frank Anderson of New Sharon, and one sister Mrs. Cecelia McClain of Cedar Falls. Interment was made in the Montezuma Cemetery with the Masons in charge at the grave. The funeral was conducted from the Methodist church, Sunday afternoon at 4:00 o'clock by the pastor, Rev. A. H. Barker.