

R. L. MORTLAND OF MONTEZUMA DIES

Pioneer Resident and Veteran Editor
Passed Away Last Satur-
day.

2-27-1925
HAD BEEN IN FAILING
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(From the Montezuma Republican)

R. L. Mortland, pioneer resident of this community and veteran editor of the county, passed away at his home here, Saturday morning, following a long illness. He was held in the highest esteem by all who knew him and his loss to the community will be greatly felt. He, together with his son, R. A. Mortland, now of Oskaloosa, founded the Palladium and successfully conducted it for a number of years.

Funeral services were held from the home Monday afternoon and the following obituary was read by the Rev. W. F. Vanderlip, pastor of the church.

R. L. Mortland was born in Butler County, Pennsylvania, December 1, 1828, and departed this life at his home in Montezuma, Iowa, February 21, 1925, aged 86 years, 2 months and 20 days. He was one of four children of Robert and Margaret (Cumberland) Mortland, all of whom had preceded him in death.

His youthful days were spent under the parental roof and as opportunity offered he attended the public schools but much of his time was spent in work on the farm. A little later he was engaged in lumbering in the oil regions of western Pennsylvania.

He was united in marriage to Miss Ruth Ann Webber, September 5, 1861. To this union ten children were born, three dying in infancy and Mahala T., who passed away thirteen years ago, February 19, 1912. Those surviving

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with his aged companion are: Nettie, R. A. Mortland of Oskaloosa; Jas. A. Mortland of Tampa, Florida; Mrs. Inez White of Terrell, Texas; Mazie Mortland, an instructor in Central High School at Duluth, Minnesota; Mrs. Ruth Stoltz, of Ottumwa, and one granddaughter, Ruth Elizabeth Mortland. All were present at his bedside during his last illness except James.

Believing better opportunities were offered in the west, he and his young wife left Pennsylvania in the fall of 1864 and came to Mercer County, Ill., where they resided until the spring of 1868 when they came to Montezuma and made their home. One year was spent on a farm northwest of town and they then moved back and the deceased engaged in carpentering and building. From 1875 until 1889 he was engaged in bridge building in this and other counties.

In 1889 he became owner of the Montezuma Democrat, a paper then published in Montezuma, which he conducted for five years and then sold the plant. In 1895 he re-entered the newspaper field and established the Poweshiek County Palladium which he and his son, R. A. Mortland conducted until 1920, when the plant was sold to and consolidated with the Montezuma Republican.

He was devoted to his home and family and happiest when he had his children with him.

He took a keen interest in the daily affairs of life and was always an ardent supporter of what he believed was for the betterment of the community. He read much and widely and until his last illness he kept in touch with progress of events of his state and country, which he loved to discuss with interest and enthusiasm.

In early years at home he was affiliated with the United Presbyterian church. While later in life he did not retain an active membership in any church he was always guided by Christian ideals in upright and honorable living. To a friend in misfortune he gave generously of all that he had, often nobly sharing burdens where it meant real sacrifice. He was a man of great reserve and rarely gave expression to the deeper emotions. Before his last illness he expressed his content with the long years that lay behind and his confidence and faith in the better life beyond.

The funeral was held at the home Monday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock, the service being conducted by Rev. W. F. Vanderlip, pastor of the Presbyterian church. Prof. W. E. Pollard sang two numbers.

POST OFFICE HOURS

Beginning Monday, March 2nd the
general delivery and stamp window