

A. F. RAYBURN OF

MONTEZUMA DIES

6-H WHILE IN CHICAGO

7-2-1912

A. F. Rayburn, president of the First National Bank of Montezuma and one of the county's prominent citizens, died last Saturday night in Chicago of apoplexy, with which he was stricken on Friday night. He had seemed to be rallying from the stroke, but suddenly suffered a relapse and passed away.

Mr. Rayburn seemed the picture of health when he started from Montezuma on Thursday morning for his Chicago trip and the news of his sudden illness and death came as a crushing blow to all who knew him. Mr. Rayburn's condition was first discovered by his fellow townsman, A. B. Siverling who was passing through Chicago on his way home from an eastern trip, heard that Mr. Rayburn was there and stopped to see him. He discovered that he was ill and notified his wife and his daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. John Hall, of this city, of his condition. They hastened to Chicago at once and returned yesterday morning with the body, escorting it to Montezuma. Mr. Rayburn's only son, A. D. Rayburn, is now in Europe with his family.

Mr. Rayburn was a shrewd and able business man, a kind husband and father and a public spirited citizen. His loss means much to Montezuma.

7-9 A. F. Rayburn. 1912

A. F. Rayburn was born in Highland county, Ohio, February 9, 1841. When a lad fourteen years old he came with his parents to Montezuma where he was educated in the public schools. In August, 1862, he enlisted in Company B, 40th Iowa Infantry. His war record was a splendid one and he was mustered out in Indian territory in August, 1865.

During the years 1867-68 he was engaged in the drug business in Brooklyn. He was married to Miss Nettie Brosius, a native of Indiana, January 29, 1867. To this union were born three children, Mrs. Lou Rayburn-Hall, of Grinnell, who was with him at the time of his death, E. D. Rayburn, cashier of the First National bank, who is touring Europe with his family, and a son, Ralph, who died in infancy. In 1872 he engaged in the hardware business with John H. Porter and they were successful merchants in Montezuma during their partnership of twenty-six years.

He had been associated with the First National bank in Montezuma since its organization. He was one of the original stock-holders and directors. For the past eight years he has been president of the bank, and more actively engaged in the business. As an adviser in the bank, he was honest, conscientious, and elsewhere and everywhere he sought peace and observance of law and order.

For a number of years he has been secretary and treasurer of the Montezuma Electric Light company and its success is due perhaps more to his wise counsel and his thoroughness and carefulness than to any one thing.

In civic affairs he has always been prominent. He has held the office of mayor several terms, has been a valued member of the city council for which body he was a member at the time of his death, was the president of the

Montezuma Commercial club, and clerk of Jackson township which office he has creditably filled for the past ten years. Every movement promulgated for a better Montezuma he was ready to join in, and was generous in its support, courtly in manner, ever a gentleman. He was singularly modest, retiring in disposition and esteemed because he was a useful citizen.

He was a prominent member of Wiser Post, No. 25, and had held the highest offices. He had been quartermaster of this Post for over a quarter of a century. He was a prominent member of the Masonic order and the Odd Fellows and held offices of prominence in each order. He was likely one of the oldest Masons in membership in the state, becoming a member of that organization before the war.

Mr. Rayburn had long been a faithful member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and was a member of the official board.—Montezuma Republican.