

Oscar James Persons

Jan. 24, 1850 – May 1937

Oscar J. Persons, Monticello, Passes After Long illness Masonic Burial Rites Held For Aged Resident Of County

Funeral services for Oscar James Persons, 87 years of age highly esteemed resident of Monticello for almost a half century, who passed away in his home at 1:45 p. m. Thursday following a year of failing health, were conducted at 2 Saturday afternoon in the home on Railroad avenue.

Funeral and burial services were in charge of the Monticello and Belleville Masonic orders. Interment was in Highland cemetery. Pallbearers, all Masons, were as follows: C. F. Jordan, Albert Knobel, Henry J. Elmer, R. H. Schoonover, Emil G. Voegeli and Adam A. Schuler.

Native of Rock County

Mr. Persons was a native of Rock county, having been born in Johnstown Jan. 24, 1850, the son of William and Marsha Bagley Persons. On Feb. 12, 1873 he was united in marriage to Laney Elizabeth Fenton, the ceremony being performed in Brooklyn. The first years of their married life were spent in Brodhead, Attica, and later in Monticello. In his early years Mr. Persons followed the cobbler's trade and for some years followed this work in Brodhead and Attica. They had made their home in Monticello for the past 45 years, during which Mr. Persons was actively engaged in stock buying and selling for nearly 40 years.

Colorful Career

Mr. Person's career was one of an unusually colorful and varied nature. When but a lad of eight years he suffered the loss of his father, a pioneer resident of Rock county, who was drowned in the Sugar river at Dayton, leaving a family of five boys. At the age of 14 he started out in the world to make his own home and began following the cobbler's trade. After working in this line for some years his health became impaired and he was forced to do outdoor work. This turn of fate led to stock buying and selling, at which he was successful for many years. During the early days in his stock buying career he drove his animals across country to Madison and Janesville. On one of his trips to Madison he lost a watch which was found and returned to him eight years later.

Seasoned Stock Buyer

In 1885 he moved to New Glarus and with the late Fred Humiston formed the livestock firm known as Humiston and Persons Stock Co. After Mr. Humiston's withdrawal from the partnership the firm of Persons and Kundert was formed in New Glarus. In 1889 Mr. Persons moved to Monticello and renewed his partnership with Mr. Humiston. For quite some time Mr. Persons was also connected with Jacob Burgy and Jesse Lemon in the stock buying business, doing business at the Illinois Central yards. After completing his business career, and until late last year, Mr. Persons always made it a point to be present at the stock yards here in Monticello each week when the stock was loaded.

During the long span of years in which Mr. Persons was connected with the business circles in Monticello and elsewhere he made a vast number of friends, all of whom occasion sincere regret at his passing. He was noted for his unquestioned knowledge of stock and his honesty in dealing.

Mr. Persons took a keen interest in public affairs and at one time served as mayor of Monticello.

He had been a member of the Masonic order for 56 years, joining in Dayton in 1881.

Survivors are one daughter, Mrs. B. L. Clarke, Monticello, and one half-brother, Henry Heathman, and several nieces and nephews. Mrs. Persons passed away Sept. 4, 1936, and a daughter, Melissa, passed away at the age of one year.