

DIED IN VERY FEW MINUTES

Ellsworth Merriss, Prominent Pleasant Mills Farmer, Had Fatal Attack

ON LAST EVENING

Believed to Have Been Apoplexy -- Had Been in Good Health

Death came very unexpectedly last evening at 8 o'clock, to Ellsworth Merriss, a prominent man of Pleasant Mills, when he suffered what the physician, who arrived shortly after his death, believes to have been apoplexy. Mr. Merriss was a man tall and portly and apparently in the very best health. Tuesday he had been working on his barn, covering every crack and crevice to make the structure warm for the winter. In the evening he got up from the table, and going into the living room, remarked to his wife that he believed he would go to bed. He sat down behind the stove on a box and talked for a while. His wife also talked with him and after a few moments she noticed that his answers had ceased. Fearing something wrong, she looked and saw him sitting with his head drooping. She went to him and shook him and asked him what was wrong but received no reply. She hurriedly left him and called a neighbor, and when they returned he had fallen partly over. He was still breathing slightly, and they laid him in a better position and began at once to use what restorativity they had at hand until the physician who had been called could arrive. He lived only a few minutes, however, from the time he was first stricken. It was the first attack of any kind that he had ever had and had never been afflicted with heart trouble.

The news of his death could scarcely be believed this morning when it reached the city, as he had always seemed to be a man of unusually good health. Only a few weeks ago he served as one of the jurors in the Dr. Thain case, on trial in the Adams circuit court.

Mr. Merriss was born on the farm and in the house in which he died, June 3, 1862, making him at death, fifty-one years old. He was a son of Venis and Margaretta Stiner Merriss. The father died June 5, 1898, and the mother only a year ago last September 6.

In young manhood Mr. Merriss entered the employ of the Erie railroad as car inspector. He lived at Lima, Ohio, and Huntington and then went to Lexington, Ky., where he lived twenty years. Later he purchased an interest in a store at Rochester with his brother-in-law, Al Fristoe, and was there two years. After his mother's death he took over the old home farm at Pleasant Mills, moving there last March.

He is survived by the widow, Della C. Merriss, and one son, Dennis, who is married and resides at Covington, Ky. The son and wife and children visited here only a few weeks ago. One brother, Wallace, of Indianapolis, and one sister, Mrs. Al Fristoe, of Rochester are living.

Mr. Merriss was a member of the Masonic order of high degree and was active in his lodge.

Coroner D. D. Clark visited the scene and held an inquest about 9:30 o'clock Monday night and stated this morning that his death was due to heart failure.

Unless other arrangements should be made after the son's arrival from Covington, the funeral will be held Thursday morning at the Baptist church in Pleasant Mills. The body will then be brought to this city and taken to Fort Wayne, where it will be cremated.