

M. F. Rice Succumbs

Life of Prominent Adams Man Close at Little Past

The Midnight Hour

Was One of Leading Men

Funeral Will Be Saturday

Just a half hour after the ebbing of the midnight hour - at 12:30 o'clock this morning - the tide of the life of Millard Ferguson Rice, one of the leading business men of Adams county ebbed away into the great sea of eternity, his death occurring at his home on Fourth street.

Mr. Rice had been in failing health for about four years, though it has been only a few weeks since his ailment assumed a more serious phase, the diabetes with which he had been suffering becoming complicated with ulcers of the stomach - gastric ulcers. He suffered no pain at all, but a great, overwhelming nausea, and had been able to retain no nourishment for a week. Mr. Rice had been confined to his home for the past five weeks, though only a week ago Tuesday he had been able to come down stairs and sit and converse there with friends. He grew rapidly worse in a few days and his decline was very rapid. A trained nurse, Miss Snider, of Hope hospital, Fort Wayne, had been in attendance since Saturday night. During the years of his decline, Mr. Rice had consulted many specialists, spending many weeks at a Chicago institute, and going each year to the sanitarium at Attica for treatment, and while all may have done much to retard the growth of the disease, attempts for a permanent cure were in vain.

Mr. Rice, who was fifty-four years of age at death, was a life-long resident of Adams county. He was born on the Rice homestead, now known as the Waggoner farm in Root township, a few miles northeast of this city. June 3, 1856, the son of Benjamin and Mary Rice, now deceased. He was united in marriage to Rachael A. Martin, September 17, 1876, in this city. The first years of their life were spent on a farm near this city, they later coming to this city to reside. He built a comfortable home on Tenth street for their residence, Mr. Rice continuing to make that his home until a year ago last November when he built their present palatial residence on Fourth street. The wife passed away only ten years after their marriage - on April 7, 1886 - leaving besides the husband, two children: Edward B. Rice, whose death occurred at his home at Berne three years ago last November 3rd, and Mary Fanchon, wife of Amos Yoder of this city. A son, Samuel F., died at the age of seven months.

June 5, 1888, Mr. Rice was married at Warsaw, Indiana to Mrs. Alva Cunningham. The marriage was a happy one and the wife who survives is sadly bereaved.

Besides the aforementioned bereaved one, the deceased leaves four brothers and three sisters - Ben, John and James M. Rice of this city; David M. Rice of Root township, Mrs. Jonas Cline of Root township, Mrs. Elizabeth Wagoner of Fort Wayne, and Mrs. Mary Davy of Indianapolis.

Mr. Rice was one of the leading business men of the county, being an authority in the lumber world. For twenty-eight years or more he had been associated with the P. W. Smith lumber interests in the county, rising rapidly to the position of manager of the plants of the Adams Co. Lumber company, both at Berne and Decatur, a position which he has held for the past twenty-five years. He has been a shareholder and director of the First National bank for the past five or six years. His business life has been one of great enterprise and he was acknowledged one of the best of business men.

Mr. Rice was an active member of the Methodist church and in lodge circles also was prominent, being a member of the I. O. O. F. and the higher encampment of this order.

The funeral will be held Saturday morning at 10 o'clock at the Methodist Church. The pastor, the Rev. Powell, will be assisted in the service by Rev. Ehle, pastor of the Baptist church. The body will be laid to rest in the Decatur cemetery.