

A NOTED EDUCATOR CALLED BY DEATH

James McNeill, Former Supt. of Local Schools, Dies at a Ripe Old Age.

James McNeill, 78, former city and county official, died at his home, 22 South Thirteenth Street, early this morning, from Brights disease. The late Mr. McNeill who was always prominent in commercial and educational affairs in Richmond, had been in declining health for more than two years, or since the death of his wife, in September, 1908. For the last few days his death was expected.

Funeral services will probably be held Saturday afternoon, from the home, the Rev. S.W. Traun officiating. Surviving the deceased are four sons, Prof. Jerome McNeill, of Florida; Gregg S. McNeill, Minneapolis, Minn.; Harry T. McNeill, Santa Monica, Cal.; and Howard R. McNeill, Niagara Falls, New York; two sisters, Mrs. Lavinia Light, and Mrs. Elizabeth Bushman, both of New Richmond, Ohio, and two brothers, Robert McNeill, of Richmond and Captain Frank McNeill, of Brazil, Indiana. Since the decease of his wife, the late McNeill had lived with his granddaughter, Miss Jessie McNeill.

Sketch of his life.

James McNeill was born in Clermont county, Ohio, February 22, 1833, and passed his boyhood on the farm of his father, Captain John McNeill, who was of Scotch-Irish ancestry and born in England. When he was seventeen the gold excitement in California drew him to the Pacific coast, where for three years he worked in the mines. Returning he graduated from Antioch college at Yellow Springs, Ohio, in 1859 after teaching and studying in that college.

Later he taught in schools at Laurel, Moscow, Merom college and at Hagerstown. In 1869, the late Mr. McNeill was honored with the superintendency of the Richmond public schools. He served as superintendent for years after which he organized the Richmond Normal school and taught there for a year. In the meanwhile he had erected a house on the site of the present Garfield school building, at Twelfth and South A streets, and this property he sold to the city, which used the house as a high school building. A few years later the building now on this site was constructed.

In 1877 McNeill was called to a professorship in Antioch College, where for two years he was in charge of the normal department. After returning to Richmond, following a break in his health he engaged in real estate business for many years. He was very successful. He was interested in the old Richmond Oil and Gas company organized in 1894.

For two years he served as city commissioner of Richmond, and for five years, between 1870 and 1885, he was county examiner, serving in this office until the officers of the county and city superintendent were divided.

In 1856 he was married to Miss Mary J. Fee of Clermont county. He was a member of the Masonic lodge

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