

The Evening Argus.

ROCK ISLAND ILLINOIS MONDAY EVENING OCTOBER 2, 1865

DEATH OF JUDGE BAILEY.

The people of this city were startled, on Saturday, by a report that Hon. William Bailey was dying. With sad looks the news passed from one to another, and constant enquiries were made for the suffering man, and earnest hopes expressed that he would recover. But at 4 P.M. he sank to sleep, not to wake again in this world,

On Thursday evening he had a very severe attack of bilious colic. His family physician (Dr. Gregg) was immediately called, and remedies administered. The next morning the violence of the symptoms had abated, giving hope of a favorable issue. But, on Saturday morning, congestion of the lungs was superadded, and at 4 o'clock, of that day, he died. During his very brief illness he was, most of the time, suffering intense pain, but during all his suffering he exhibited that remarkable patience and christian fortitude which has characterized his whole life.

Judge Bailey was born in County Down, Ireland, and, had he lived until next December, he would have been 56 years of age.— He came to this country in 1827, being then only 18 years of age. His first stopping place was Pittsburgh, Pa., but he soon afterwards took up his residence in Portsmouth, Ohio. In 1831 he came to this county, and settled in Port Byron, where his partner in business (Mr. Boyle) had preceded him.— After three or four months' residence there, they came to this city, and have resided here, continuously, since.

It will thus be seen that he was one of the early settlers of the place, and he has been prominently identified with all its interests, religious, educational, political, and financial. He has been our representative in the legislature, our judge of probate, our mayor, and he was president of our board of education, at the time of his death. A prominent business man—all his life, he never ceased to take a lively interest in all that affected the

welfare of our people. Few men were more widely known, in our county, and we have few whose loss would be more sincerely regretted. That some people should, at times, have differed with a man whose position required him to have decided opinions, is not strange,—but that he had a personal enemy in the world we do not believe. Nor will any be found to question the purity and honesty of his intentions, in all he did or said.

He leaves an excellent family, (some of the children being of tender years) to mourn the loss of a kind husband, and an affectionate father, on whom they had hoped to lean for comfort and support.

The public lose a most excellent member of society, and the city one who has contributed much to its moral and material prosperity. For more than 30 years his familiar and pleasant face has been seen about his old business corner, where his wise counsels and genial, humorous ways have made him a part of Rock Island. He will be sadly missed, by all who knew him,

His funeral took place at 10 o'clock to day (Monday) attended by a large concourse of citizens,—and it was a fitting tribute to the goodness and public worth of the man that the places of business, in this city, were closed during his funeral.

Daughter of Pioneer Judge Bailey Recalls Day of Log Rafts on River

**Rock Island Woman, 75,
Is Sole Survivor of Early
Family.**

BY KENNETH BRANDT.

Although there are only a few persons living today who are old enough to remember Judge William Bailey and what he did for Rock Island, a sermon preached on the occasion of his death in 1865 by the late Rev. S. T. Wilson, pastor of the old First Presbyterian church, Rock Island, and an interview with the judge's daughter, Miss Mary E. Bailey, 75, 1034 Nineteenth street, the last immediate survivor of the Bailey family, reveal some of the accomplishments and unusual characteristics of Judge Bailey.

Highlights of Judge Bailey's life in Rock Island follow:

He was one of the early settlers of Rock Island and was prominently identified with all its interests, religious, educational, political and financial.

He had been Rock Island's representative in the state legislature.

He served as judge of probate here.

In 1856 and 1857, he was mayor.

At the time of his death, he was president of the board of education.

Pioneer Merchant.

He was the senior member of the firm of Bailey and Boyle, which engaged in general merchandise in the early days. The old Bailey residence in the pioneer days stood where the State bank building now stands, and in 1854 the firm of Bailey and Boyle erected a 4-story brick business house there. One-half of the store building was occupied by the general store of the firm and the other half by the banking firm of Cook, Sargent and Parker, which in 1856 sold out to Mitchell and Cable, the firm later becoming the firm of Mitchell and Lynde, now known as the State bank. The building was later purchased by Mitchell and Lynde and the present building was erected on the site in later years.

Judge Bailey obtained the charter for the first ferry between Rock Island and Davenport.

He aided greatly in the growth of the community, that section of the city from Twenty-third street to Thirtieth street and from Ninth avenue to the river being known as the Bailey and Boyle addition.

The judge was instrumental in the growth of the Presbyterian church in Rock Island. In the sermon preached on the occasion of Judge Bailey's death, the Rev. Mr. Wilson paid tribute to Judge Bailey's career and lifetime of service.

His daughter, Miss Mary Bailey, has resided in this city all of her 75 years, having been born Nov. 4, 1859, at Twenty-third street and Fourth avenue, then one of the most attractive parts of the community. She had four brothers,

Robert, Kennedy, William and Brunot, all of whom are dead.

Charter Church Member.

Miss Bailey is the only surviving charter member of Broadway Presbyterian church, Rock Island, which was organized in 1874. She is one of that rapidly decreasing number of pioneer citizens who have witnessed the development of this city over many years.

When Miss Bailey was a girl, Rock Island's business district was practically confined to Second avenue between Fifteenth and Eighteenth streets. She recollects that among the most prominent families in this city in those days were the Cables, Hakes, Mitchells, Mixters, Greggs, Robinsons and Bufords.

"I remember when numerous log rafts were floating down the Mississippi river to the Weyerhaeuser and Denkmann mills at the west end of Rock Island," she said. "In the winter time, residents of the city would enjoy rides in sleighs and hacks across the frozen river. Sylvan slough, just east of the present Rock Island bridge, was a popular place for ice skating," declared Miss Bailey.

"During the spring thaws, the ice and flood waters would come up as far as Third avenue in those days," Miss Bailey stated. "That was the reason why the Second Presbyterian church was abandoned across the avenue from where St. Joseph's Catholic church now stands."

Miss Bailey recalls the founding of Broadway Presbyterian church, which celebrated its 60th anniversary last April. She still attends the Broadway church each Sunday.

Recalls Big Wedding.

Reminiscing further, Miss Bailey stated she remembers an elaborate and beautiful double wedding which took place in the '60's in the First Presbyterian church, Rock Island. The brides, Miss Fanny Blackburn and Miss Fanny Fish, represented two prominent Rock Island families, she stated. Miss Blackburn was married to Elisha Lee, uncle of Mrs. Fred Denkmann, and Miss Fish was united in marriage to Major McKinney. Rhoda Lee, now Mrs. Fred Denkmann, and Sue Blackburn were the flower girls, Miss Bailey declared.

Miss Bailey enjoyed the privilege of helping to select the sites of two of the early homes of the Bailey family, one of them being at 727 Twentieth street and the other at 1034 Nineteenth street. The latter home, built in 1892, was the only house in that immediate vicinity for a number of years, Miss Bailey said.

Broadway church has a window as a memorial to Judge William Bailey.

"Bailey & Boyle conducted a little flour and feed store business on Eighteenth street between First and Second avenues in the early days, selling flour for many years from the flour mills owned by Judge Bailey in Milan," Miss Bailey declared.