

Charles Reed, 1842-1908

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Paducah today comes to mourn the death of another respected and valued citizen. “**Charley**” Reed is no more. Death last night at 10:05, claimed him as its own, and in everlasting peace coming to him came a great loss to the city, for Charles Reed was among the public-spirited men of the place, was one of its most liberal residents and a “popular fellow” whom all who knew liked to have for a friend.

Truly there were few “Charley” Reeds and this can be said as a just tribute to his liberal and generous spirit and as all indication of what the city has sustained in his demise.

In asking for “peace to his ashes,” the News-Democrat knows full well that it this morning will have the truest response from the hearts of thousands who feel that each and all have a particular reason to mourn.

The death of Mr. Reed occurred at the hour stated and he quietly, as in peaceful sleep, passed from life at the residence of his daughter and only child. Mrs. Emma Noble, widow of the late Edmund P. Noble, in the “west End.” The cause of his death was uremic poison, from which he had suffered but a short while, though he had been in feeble health for some months. Just a few days since he went to Chicago because of his feebleness and general condition to consult a specialist there, only to find that his condition was so serious that there was little or no hope for him, so he returned home to await the end that he knew was near at hand. Then his serious condition perhaps became known to his closest friends, to their deep pain. Tuesday it became known wider that his condition was most precarious, but even then it was hoped by all his friends that the inevitable might be stayed for awhile longer. But his soul had been summoned and yesterday his physician recognized that the end was only a few hours at farthest and this said information had soon spread over the city, being learned with deep sorrow wherever it became known.

Charles Reed was a native of Paducah, being born November 4, 1842. He was the son of W.H. Reed, formerly a contractor and a well-known and highly respected citizen of Paducah. In early life he had the advantages of the city schools, but at the age of 12, was compelled to quit school and labor for his sustenance. He became an apprentice to the tobacco trade at which he occupied his time until the beginning of the civil war, when, thought only 19 years old, he entered the Confederate army, serving in many of the greater battles of that struggle, including the battle of Shiloh, Corinth and Harrisburg. He was first under the command of Gen. Lloyd Tilghman, as a member of the Third regiment. Breckinridge’s division, but later was with General Forrest. In all of his noted raids through Kentucky and Tennessee.

The close of the war found Mr. Reed without financial means, but his native energy predominated over circumstances and he soon became associated with his uncle, John Segenfelter, deceased, in the hotel business, with whom he opened the European hotel.

This effort was successful and in 1876 he purchased a half interest in the Richmond house, at that time the leading hotel of Paducah, and conducted that hostelry for several years. Prior to his connection with this house and in 1872 he became connected with Messrs. Hobbs and Morton in the management of an extensive woolen manufactory, the firm being known as Hobbs, Morton & Reed. Mr. Reed remained a member of this firm three years, when he retired.

When the Palmer Hotel company was organized he became a member of the company and was leasee of the house when it opened in 1892. He conducted the Palmer house until two years ago when the Palmer House Company was reorganized and the hotel was reconstructed. He was elected president of the new company and "____ host" of the hotel and was serving in the dual capacity at the time of his death.

Mr. Reed served Paducah for four terms as mayor. He was first elected in 1881 and his popularity manifested itself in his serving four terms consecutively. He went out of office just before he entered the Palmer house, much to the regret of the people whom he had served with fidelity and with great benefit to them and credit to himself. Later he entered the council to gratify his friends and served there as president of the board. He was a Democrat in politics, as he was in disposition and life, and hence much of his popularity.

In the latter 60's Mr. Reed was married to Miss Jessie Woods, a most attractive daughter of Capt. Dave Woods, deceased, and to them one daughter was born. Mrs. Reed died some 14 years ago and only his daughter survives him, all other connections having preceded him to the grave.

Mr. Reed was a member of several orders, chief among which was that of Masonry, he being a Knight Templar. He was also a churchman and ever a liberal contributer to them. He was one of the most liberal of givers at all times and his charity was proverbial. He was quite modest in these deeds, in spite of his great liberality.

There was perhaps no wider known hotel man in the country than Mr. Reed and his death will be learned with much regret by the traveling public, especially the commercial tourists, who held him in the highest esteem.

There is no announcement as yet as to the time of the funeral, but it will not be sooner than Friday. The interment will be in Oak Grove, where the deceased and his daughter have a beautiful mausoleum.