

Dr. William F. Calhoun, (21 Nov 1844 – 10 Jun 1929), Decatur Herald, June 10, 1929; Dr. Calhoun, Soldier, Legislator and Former Herald Editor



Dr. W. F. Calhoun, Commander of Dunham Post, G. A. R. and former state commander, died in his home, 349 N Edward Street at 4 o'clock Monday morning after only a few hours illness. He was in his 85th year.

He had appeared in his usual health on Sunday and had participated in a meeting of patriotic societies planning a new building. It was while he was driving later with members of his family that he was seized with a severe pain in his left arm. He went to the home of his son, **Dr. J. C. Calhoun** for treatment and not finding him in, went to his own home and bed.

Mind clear to the end

The pain yielded to treatment but the heart action remained unsatisfactory. **Dr. Calhoun's** mind was bright and clear when he was not sleeping. At midnight

he told his son, to look up a problem in a crossword puzzle on which he had been engaged. About 4 o'clock he talked with his nurse. The end came a few minutes later presumably from a clot on the heart.

The funeral will be at 10 o'clock Wednesday morning in the First Methodist Church. The body will be in state in the church, Wednesday morning from 8 o'clock until time for the services under a guard of honor selected from the veterans of foreign wars. The body will be in the Monson funeral home until Tuesday noon when it will be removed to the family home where it will remain until Wednesday morning. Burial will be in Fairlawn Cemetery.

Dr. W. J. Davidson former pastor will be in charge of the services and Jude W. G. Cochran of Sullivan will speak.

Dr. Calhoun's death was heard of with sadness all over the city. In G. A. R. and other patriotic circles he was a great figure. He was generally known and loved. While he had been active in carrying on the traditions of the war, he was far from being a professional patriot. A certain reserve always characterized him.

Effected Changes In News Field.

Dr. Calhoun had so long been out of active business life that only older members of the community remember the important part that he took from the beginning of the 90's up to 1912 when he retired from active work. He effected great changes in the newspaper situation in Decatur and was editor of the Herald until 1920. At that time he disposed of all his interests.

Dr. Calhoun was a postmaster in Decatur from 1896 to 1912 and it was in his regime that the present post office building was erected. He was appointed to this position by President McKinley in 1897.

Although without early newspaper experience **Dr. Calhoun** in 1889 when well along in middle life had the courage to enter the Decatur field where four papers, The Bulletin, The Review, The Herald and The Republican were struggling. He started The Dispatch but recognizing that the situation was unsatisfactory he consolidated his Herald with and transferred his interest to The Republican of which he became the editor.

At age 17 he enlisted as a member of Company H, One Hundred and Thirty Third Pennsylvania Infantry and was connected with the Fifth Army Corps. He was in the battles of: Winchester, Cedar Creek, Fishers Hill, Toms Brook, Waynesboro, Five Forks, Sailors Creek and Appomattox, Bull Run, Antietam, South Mountain, Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville.

He studied dentistry when he came to Illinois and for twenty three years pursued this career but he retired and came to Decatur.

On the 22nd of August, 1869, **Dr. Calhoun** was married to **Miss Blanche Derthick**, a native of Ohio and unto them have been born five children: **Maude** the wife of **Rev. E. K. Towle**, of Taylorville, Illinois, **Nellie** the wife of **F. S. Dodd**, manager of the Decatur Herald, **John C.** a resident of Des Moines, Iowa, **Catharine**, the wife of **Victor R. Loughheed** of Chicago and **Richard B.** at home.

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