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PONTIAC BILL POSTER

Death of Hon. Samuel H. Norton

God feared God and eschewed evil. I was with mingled feelings of awe and sorrow that our citizens heard and read the news, on Monday morning, of the death of Sam Norton, as he was universally known. Awe because of the sudden and unexpected call of the messenger of death, on one who was supposed to be hale and hearty, and for whom the future seemed to offer long years of usefulness. Sorrow, because his acquaintances felt that each had lost a friend, and all realized that there had been called from scene earthly, one who could ill be spared a man in every sense of the word, of kindly impulses, gentle disposition, a man whose name was a synonym for honesty, morality and probity.

Mr. Norton's death was caused by disease of the heart, and though sudden, was peaceful and painless. Sunday he complained of feeling faint, which was the first symptom of anything wrong, and a little later finding the feeling growing on him, sent for medical assistance. Dr. Elliott was called, and administered stimulants but medicine was of no avail; he continued to grow weaker, and about 9 o'clock made a slight movement, like the last flicker of a candle burned to its socket, and life was extinct.

Mr. Norton was born in Canandaigua, N. Y., in 1825, and was therefore about 60 years of age. His family came into this state about 50 years ago, and settled in Novi. Ten years later he came to Pontiac, and has been a constant resident of the city since that time, a period of some 40 years. Dur-

ing his residence in Pontiac Mr. Norton has been prominent in all schemes for the advancement of the city's interests. During his early residence he engaged in business at different times with a Mr. Adams and A. C. High, and in 1867 formed a partnership with G. Jacobs in the hardware and harness business, with whom his business relations for the past 18 years have been cordial and pleasant. A staunch republican in politics, Mr. Norton has been elected to the offices of alderman and mayor at several times, and owing to his personal popularity, gained the latter office against a large democratic majority. His services in these positions always manifested sound judgment and good business abilities and everything he did was done with the painstaking care which was a marked feature of his character.

About 35 years since Mr. Norton joined with the M. E. Society, of this city, and has always been a constant and devoted attendant of all church and Sabbath school services, and has been treasurer of church and school funds for 18 years. The interest and welfare of his church were always of paramount importance to him. He was one of the strongest pillars of the society, and nowhere will he be more missed.

On Feb. 5, 1864, Mr. Norton became a member of the masonic order. The study of masonry seemed to have for him a peculiar charm. He worked his way through the different lodges, joined the chapter in 1865, and became a Sir

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