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Col. John P. Foster obit

## PONTIAC BILL POSTER

In 1862 he enrolled himself in the 14th Michigan infantry Co. I, with the commission of 1st lieutenant under Col. Shoemaker and Robert W. Davis. After an organization and brief camp in Ypsilanti the regiment joined the department of the Tennessee. After a few months spent in active service he was taken sick, resigned and came home. From this time to the day of his death he never recovered from the seeds of disease engendered by climate change and exposure. After his return from the army and his health had improved he entered into partnership with Mark Walter in the produce and grain trade, for a number of years doing a large business. The firm dissolved in 1872, when he took up the auctioneer's hammer building up a state reputation as a prudent and successful vender of real estate, stock and personal property. The exposure and arduous duties of this latter calling his friends think shortened his days which are now numbered, dying with a kind benediction and blessing from many hearts.

Mr. Foster was born in the county of Kent, England, Jan. 1, 1826, making his age 61 next new Years day. When a child of about two years his parents emigrated to America, stopping at Utica, New York, when they came to Michigan and Oakland county, where the father, Horatio, located 40 acres of land in Independence. From the humble log house home with all its embarrassments and privations he began his limited schooling in the old primary school house which his father built near the village of Clarkston. At the age of 16 years he entered the shoe shop of William Blake, as an apprentice, working a couple of years, when he changed his occupation to that of carpenter, working for his elder brothers, Samuel and Frederick. He remained with them two years when he went to Detroit and entered a joiner's shop for instruction in the fine arts of the trade. He remained in Detroit a year when he came to Pontiac in the fall of 1849 entering the employ of Samuel Brotherton, the leading builder in the village of Pontiac. He was married in Detroit, Oct. 24, 1850, to Delia E. Whiteman, who survives him. From 1849, except when absent in the army, he lived continuously in this city until his death. At the time of his decease, his death was the first in the family, making the loss one of inexperience-

ed family grief, increasing the weight of sorrow and mourning. The deceased leaves a widow and four adult children, three daughters and one son. He leaves one brother, Frederick Foster, of Springfield, the only surviving member of the elder Foster family. By his care and industry he has accumulated sufficient of this world's goods for the support of his widow and dependent children.

The funeral was very largely attended by friends and citizens of the county and other sections of the State from the Foster home on Saginaw avenue, last Monday afternoon at 2 o'clock.

The civic and fraternal associations to which he belonged and had been identified with, attending as bodies, including the common council, the present fire department, and the surviving members of the old volunteer firemen, each wearing a badge. The Masonic fraternity was represented by Pontiac Commandery, No. 2.

The preliminary service at the house was conducted by Rev. L. S. Stevens, rector of Zion church, who read the ritualistic service, which was supplemented by a few well chosen words of eulogy of the deceased, and sympathy to the bereaved. At the conclusion of the service, the Knights took charge of the remains. When the funeral cortage, which was very large moved with mournful step to Oak Hill, where the impressive Templar service was performed, at the conclusion of which the remains were temporarily deposited in the Bascom vault, and will in the near future secure a final sepulcher in the family lot in Oak Hill. "there to remain until the morn of the resurrection." (Until then friend, brother, Sir Knight, farewell, and light be the ashes upon thee. May the sunlight of Heaven beam bright on thy waking."

The floral offerings were elaborate and beautiful, rare pieces being contributed by friends and fraternal bodies to which he belonged.

The fire department offering was a fire chief's hat, wrought in immortal. The department draped Firemen's Hall, also the steamer named after him.

The Knights Templar contributed a cross and crown, both symbols of the order, and artistically made of an assortment of delicate and prized flowers.

M. W.