

PONTIAC
Bill
Poster

Sudden Death of Fred. Ven- hoyen. 1887

Fred Venhoven, ex-City Clerk and Secretary of the Board of Water Commissioners, after an illness of less than a week, died at his home on Mt. Clemens street last Saturday between 12 and 1 o'clock of pluro-pneumonia, aged 32 years. The Monday previous to his death he was on the street, on Tuesday he complained of not feeling well, and Dr. Galbraith was called and pronounced his symptoms as very serious, with a probable development into the disease from which he died. In spite of the careful watching and skill of the attending physician the disease culminated into an aggravated case of pluro-pneumonia. For three or four days the struggle was a desperate one, the disease being more than a match for the combined resistance of medical skill and care of family and friends, and at the hour above named, Fred Venhoven joined the innumerable caravan that is constantly fording the silent river.

Fred Venhoven was born in this city March 11, 1858, the son of a harnessmaker he early learned the trade of his father, working at it for several years. He possessed first-class clerical ability, a qualification which brought him into public notice, and in the spring of 1885 he was elected City Clerk and re-elected the following springs of 1886-87. During his last term, the present Water Board was organized, when he was, from his fitness for the place, chosen Secretary, a position he held at his death. As a public official he was painstaking and efficient and correct in all work entrusted to him.

He was a genial, social man and was held in high esteem by those with whom he mingled officially and socially.

In view of his age and domestic relations in the leaving of a young wife and two small children; his demise is especially sad, and for the surviving widow and the fatherless ones, there is felt deep sympathy by all citizens. In the desolate home the mourning is for one who was very near and dear to them, one who was prized for his faithfulness and devotion as a husband and father. The dead husband and parent is beyond the reach of sympathy or care, but the living are still with us and should not be forgotten.

The wife, the children, the aged mother and the sister are entitled to and will receive the kindest consideration of respect and condolence from all classes, associations, civil and official, of which he was an active member.

Solemn and impressive funeral services were held at the Catholic church yesterday, in the presence of a very large number of sympathizing friends, including Fred's comrades of the Fire Department, the members of the Common Council and band. Father Baumgartner preached a most excellent sermon which sank deep into the hearts of all hearers. The floral offerings were many and beautiful, and as the many warm friends of the deceased took a last look at his familiar face they realized the truth of the scriptural saying: "It is not all life to live nor all of death to die." The remains were temporarily placed in the Wilson & Wallace vault.

How sadly "Sandy," as his friends called him will be missed from this community, no pen can express, but in his own as well as hundreds of other homes he will always be remembered as an honest, capable, kind-hearted man, who never could do enough for his friends and those who were near and dear to him. While mourning his irreparable loss, let us not forget, as previously mentioned, the widow and fatherless children.