

JOE SYMNS DEAD.

Joseph A. Symns died at his home, 714 North Fourth street, at 11:15 last night. It has been generally known that he had been in failing health several years. Four years ago, realizing that he had not long to live, he sent for his eldest daughter, Mrs. T. White, who lived in Beloit, asking her to remain with him until the end, which she has done, having been his faithful, devoted and loving nurse. Since Monday morning Mr. Symns had not left his bed, but he retained all his faculties until late yesterday afternoon, when he was stricken with blindness. He was afflicted with paralysis and palsy, and his strength slowly ebbed away, but he did not suffer.

The death of Joseph A. Symns ends the activities of one of the greatest stock raisers this section of the country has ever known. He had been a resident of the state since 1865, and those who have known him longest were his best friends, which is the surest indication of an honorable career.

He was born in Monroe county, West Virginia, January 22, 1839, and worked on his father's farm until the Civil war, when he enlisted and fought for three years on the Confederate side. He was in the battles of Winchester, Fisher's Hill and Cedar Creek, and on one occasion his horse was shot from under him, but he was not wounded.

After the war he followed his late brother, A. B. Symns, to Kansas and bought his first quarter section of land seven miles north of Atchison. He had an ambition to stand on his own front porch and know that he owned all the land within the reach of his eye, and that ambition was gratified long before his death. He had 1,400 acres, which he divided among his five children two years ago, giving his sons, John Symns, of Whiting, and Charlie Symns, of Atchison, three quarter sections each, and his daughters, Mrs. T. L. White, of Beloit, Mrs. Ernest Jermark, of Pawhuska, Okla., and Mrs. Nellie Ream, of Atchison, one quarter section each. Seven years ago, when Mr. Symns felt his health was failing him, he bought a home on North Fourth street, and came to town, where he has lived ever since. His wife, Mrs. Nancy Shanks Symns, died four years ago, but their five children survive them.

"Joe" Symns, as he is lovingly and familiarly called, was a splendid man. He was a hard worker, in fact in his prime he was pointed out as the hardest working man in the country. He was not only noted for his industry, but for fairness and honesty, and many well to do farmers, who lived neighbors to him, called at his house to-day and offered to do something, saying to his children, "Your father gave me my start."

The funeral will occur to-morrow afternoon at 2 o'clock from the late residence. The Rev. A. E. Renn will have charge of it. Interment at Mount Vernon cemetery. The pall bearers will be old neighbors of the deceased: Frank McCoy, Henry Crawford, A. L. Clem, Dick Ballard, Edward Jarrett and L. C. Grey.