

## OBITUARY.

### Death of Benjamin E. Davies—California Column Reminiscences.

Benjamin E. Davies, of the Union Market, died at his residence yesterday at 5 o'clock, of pneumonia. His remains were interred in the afternoon at Concordia.

Benjamin E. Davies has been engaged in business in this city less than a year, and at the time of his death was 62 years of age. Previous to embarking in business in this city, he was engaged in ranching in New Mexico, and was the owner of many cattle. Mr. Davies was a native of Ohio, and crossed the plains to California at an early day. He was a private of Company D, 1st California Cavalry, during the war. The company was part of the celebrated "California Column" that came to El Paso in 1862 to check the Confederate invasion. Their success is a matter of history. The privations of this company have been extensively published, and it was only in a letter written last September, that Mr. Davies wrote that the hardships had been somewhat exaggerated. To use Mr. Davies own statement: "Our hardships in crossing the desert were nothing to speak about. We lived about ten or fifteen days on very poor beef and very good wheat at one time, and on half rations for a few days. There has been some mistake in the publication of the California Column. It was a battalion of 5 companies, A. B. C. D. and E. First California cavalry that came here in 1862. Instead of five companies, 2nd Cal. cavalry, there were only 22 men of the 2nd came under Capt. Cremony as Gen. Carleton's escort. In 1863 two more companies of the First Cal. cavalry were raised and sent down here in 1864, under Col. Brown to relieve the first battalion."

Mr. Davies was a Mason in good standing, and at the time of his death was a member of Las Cruces lodge A. F. and A. M. He was buried with Masonic honors by El Paso Lodge No. 130. He was also a member of the G. A. R. with the rank of quartermaster. Mr. Davies was thoroughly respected by all who were acquainted with him. He was a thoroughly capable business man, upright and honorable in all his dealings, and genial and whole-souled with all his friends. The news of his death will be received with unfeigned regret in this city among his friends. Mr. Davies leaves a wife and two daughters.