

MAJOR W. J. Fewel, 75 years old, pioneer resident of El Paso, died at the family home, 2923 Copper street, at 4:30 o'clock yesterday morning after an extended illness. He had only recently been removed from a hospital to his home because of improvement in his condition.

Surviving the late Major Fewel are two sons, Christopher and Edgar

Fewel, and a daughter, Adèle, wife of J. Frank Cole, all now living in El Paso. Christopher Fewel is a graduate of the Naval academy at Annapolis. He recently resigned a captaincy in the navy to return home and be with his father in the latter's last days.

Major Fewel was born on a farm at Rockingham, N. C., August 7, 1846. At the age of 19, he entered the Confederate army as a private in the 73rd Carolina infantry. He rose soon to a lieutenantcy and came out of the conflict a captain.

Praised for War Bravery.

It is said of Major Fewel that on one occasion he was called from the line of troops by Lieutenant Colonel Gregory of the Confederate army and extolled before Gen. Joseph E. Johnston as "the bravest and coolest boy under fire I have ever seen."

Following the war, the then Captain Fewel moved to Missouri and was made a major on the staff of Gen. Perry Catron, in the United Confederate veterans. In Missouri Major Fewel entered the cattle and hogs business and continued in that line of trade until he decided to move to El Paso, early in 1881.

Previously, in 1872, Major Fewel was married to Miss Carrie E. Catron of Lexington, Mo., who belonged to one of the oldest and most prominent families of that state, and who is a cousin of the late Thomas Catron of Santa Fe, former United States senator from New Mexico.

Owned Valuable Property.

Before the advent of railroads, Major Fewel came to El Paso and settled. He bought two of the most valuable business properties in the city, one being the northeast corner of South El Paso and East Overland streets and the other being the property at the northeast corner of South El Paso and East San Antonio streets, the latter of which he still owns.

At the same time Major Fewel purchased the entire block of land lying between East San Antonio street, Magoffin avenue, Virginia and Ochoa streets, just east of the present site of the Toltec club. Here he built what was, at the time, one of the finest residences in the city, on which homestead he lived for more than 35 years, and still owns. However, he recently moved with his wife to a new bungalow on Copper street, in Manhattan Heights.

Realty Operations Vast.

In 1883 Major Fewel entered into partnership with his brother-in-law, John Catron, in the real estate business, and together they built the Fewel & Catron building on the east side of South El Paso street, between East Overland and Second streets, the first two-story building in that part of the city, and on which is still the name, "Fewel & Catron Block." Meanwhile, he purchased several other valuable tracts of land in different parts of the city.

In 1882 he was one of the organizers of the El Paso Gas company and established the first gas plant that furnished lights for the city. This plant is now owned by the El Paso Electric Railway company on South Santa Fe street. He also was instrumental in establishing the first street car company here, that built its lines down El Paso street, to Seventh street; thence east to Stanton street and thence across the Rio Grande into Paso del Norte (Juarez), and also the line connecting therewith from El Paso street east on East San Antonio street to the Cotton addition, through Magoffin addition. In this company he was a large stockholder, and also treasurer.

With First Fire Company.

Major Fewel was a member of the first fire department organized here, in 1882, of which his friend, Charles Pierce, who came from St. Louis, was chief. He was an enthusiastic hunter and fisherman, and belonged to the El Paso Gun club, which numbered most of the crack shots of El Paso. Many a trip they made to the different places where large game abounded, such as the Sacramento, Organ, Black Range and Mazon mountains, which then were the home of bear, deer, elk and various wild animals. In those days the plains east of the Franklin and Euseba mountains northeast of the city had thousands of antelopes and afforded fine sport. In recent years he had made annual visits to Louisiana, Corpus Christi and California to indulge in his favorite pastime—fishing.

From the early days until his death, Major Fewel had been a member of

the Masonic lodge No. 130, and of the Knights Templars. He was a charter member of the local Elks' lodge and also of the El Paso Pioneers' association. He was a member of the John Brown camp of United Confederate veterans.

Major Fewel was a neighbor and intimate friend of the late Capt. Charles Davis, father of the present mayor, Captain Biall, C. R. Morehead, O. T. Bassett, Maj. E. H. Davis, John M. Bean, Wyndham Kemp, W. M. Kneeland, Maj. Noyes Rand, the Newmans, Col. J. M. Marr and others, who formed the coterie of prominent citizens in that neighborhood, then the most exclusive residential section of the city. Mrs. Fuller Swift, wife of the rector of St. Clement's Episcopal church, is a cousin of Major Fewel.

Ordered First Bitulithic.

During the administration of the late Capt. Charles Davis, Major Fewel was a member of the city council and chairman of the street and grade committee, during which time he opened the streets, parks and alleys of the city in a most creditable manner. He also visited Kansas City, St. Louis and various large cities with the committee and on returning recommended and got the city to adopt the bitulithic system of pavements which now covers most of the city streets.

He was nearly always one of the delegates sent to attend conventions, visiting and landing numerous conventions here. He was known all over the United States and when any El Pasoan went to any city the first question asked, in many cases, was "How is my friend, Major Fewel?" His name and that of El Paso became almost synonymous. Among public men in the senate and congress at Washington he numbered many friends.

Major Fewel was noted for his quick wit, humor, and repartee, and was one of the best story-tellers in the southwest. He was kind hearted and did many deeds of charity. When anyone was arrested in the early days, Major Fewel was always ready to go on his bond for appearance in the court. If he saw any poor boy whose clothes were ragged, on the street, he would lead him by the hand into some clothing store and order for him a new suit of clothes.

Funeral This Morning.

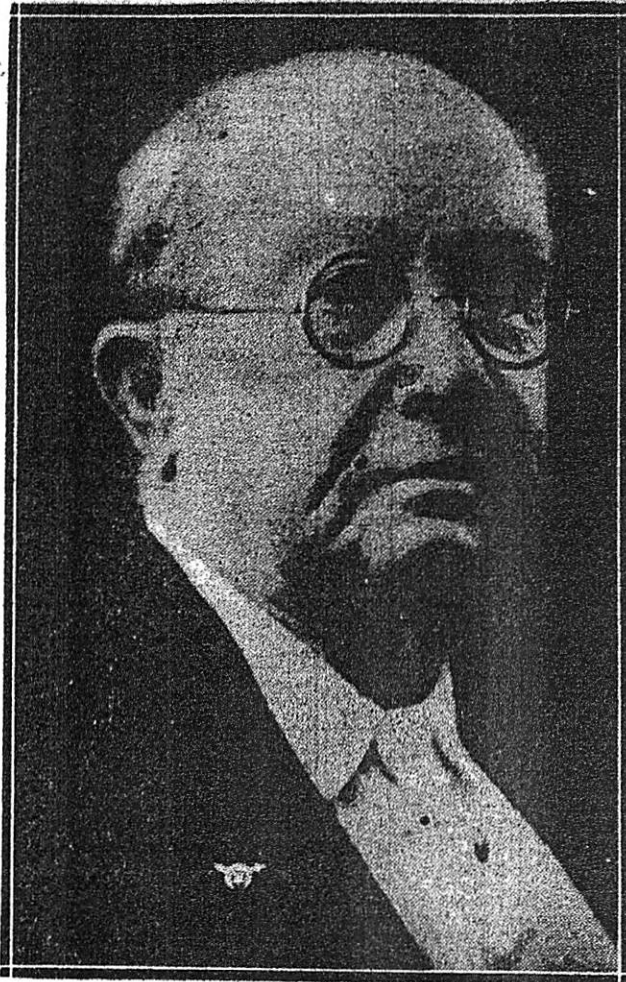
The funeral of Major Fewel will be held from the old family residence, 917 East San Antonio street, this morning at 10:30 o'clock. It is the request of the family that no flowers be sent.

Honorary pall-bearers will be: Mayor Charles Davis, Senator R. E. Dudley, A. P. Coles, Judge J. M. Goggin, Judge D. W. Harrington, Joseph Pollard, District Attorney Leigh Clark and Wyatt Evans.

Active bearers will be: Otis Coles, Lamar Davis, Robert Nell, Charles Leavell, Maury Kemp and Zach Cobb.

The El Paso Pioneers' association voted yesterday to attend the funeral in a body. The burial will be in Evergreen cemetery.

Death Takes Maj. W. J. Fewel; Pioneer, Builder, Benefactor, Succumbs to Long Illness



MAJOR W. J. FEWEL