

SUDDEN DEATH AT MIDNIGHT OF JUDGE HAMILTON

Noted Jurist, Formerly of
New Mexico, Succumbs
to Heart Failure With
But Moment's Warning.

At midnight last night death claimed Humphrey B. Hamilton as his victim, only a few minutes of nausea and a little pain over the heart preceding a quiet death.

For four years Judge Hamilton has been an honored member of the El Paso bar. He entered law as a profession in 1872; came to Socorro, New Mexico, in 1888, where he had a good practice, until in 1895, when he was appointed by President Cleveland to be district judge and associate justice of the New Mexico supreme court. He proved himself an excellent jurist, as during almost five years on the bench, he had only one case reversed by the higher court.

Christmas, 1872, he married Miss Mary J. McCutcheon, who died in 1890 as suddenly as the judge passed away. Three of their children are living—Lulu, wife of Wm. Driscoll of El Paso; Humphrey, Jr., a lawyer, Lincoln, New Mexico, and Fenwick, now in the City of Mexico.

January 3, 1899, Judge Hamilton and Mrs. Mary R. Riggle were married, and soon after came to El Paso for their home. She survives him.

The body will be laid to rest in Socorro, probably next Friday.

The deceased, while a resident of this city, was for a time associated with Clark and Fall, but of late had been conducting his practice alone. He numbered his friends by the score in this city and in New Mexico they are all over the territory. Speaking this morning of his career, President E. M. Bray, of the Chamber of Commerce, who has known the deceased for almost a lifetime, said:

"Judge Hamilton was truly one of God's noblemen. As a jurist he was able and as a man he was a man in every sense of the word. As a lawyer he was one of the brightest in this section of the country. As a father and husband he was dutiful and tender. I never heard any person utter an ill word against him and this is something unusual and almost phenomenal for any man who has been in public life."

Death came very suddenly and unexpectedly, as the deceased was out in the city early last evening and apparently in the best of health. Judge Leigh Clark, who was associated with him in the law practice when he first came to El Paso, met him on the street about eight o'clock and spoke to him, when he was in as good health apparently, as ever. Four hours later he was a corpse.

Upon learning of the death of Judge Hamilton this morning Judge Wyndham Kemp, chairman of the local bar committee, appointed a special committee to call on the bereaved widow and offer her any assistance possible, the committee being composed of County Judge Joseph Swcney, County Attorney Maury Kemp, Judge Richard Burges and Judge Walter S. Smallwood.

The committee was informed that the funeral arrangements would be announced just as soon as word could be received from the son, who is in Mexico, and that the funeral would be held at Socorro as soon as he could arrive. When the remains are taken to the train the members of the local bar will accompany them from the family residence, on Upson avenue. After the funeral the members of the bar will then hold a meeting and adopt suitable resolutions to be spread on the minutes of the district court.

The deceased was a native of Missouri.