

HE DIED

ALL ALONE

T. T. Teel, Lawyer and Soldier, Expired Last Night

OF HEART FAILURE.

It Was at First Believed That He Had Committed Suicide. But the Circumstances Do Not Justify the Belief.—His Heart Had Been Troubling Him All Day.

Major T. T. Teel, a lawyer of distinction, a soldier noted in two wars, and probably one of the best known men in this locality, if not in Texas, was found dead in his bed at 8 o'clock last night at the American hotel on East Overland street near the fire department headquarters.

It is believed that he died of heart failure, aggravated by the intense heat, but there are many persons who advance the theory that his death resulted from suicide.

Yesterday Major Teel complained of being unwell and told several parties that his heart was violently affected and was troubling him intensely. He was in Judge Townsend's office just about noon and lay down on a sofa. He was persuaded to go home and today Townsend says that he thinks had Teel remained an hour longer he would have died there, as he was undoubtedly badly troubled by his heart.

WHEN LAST SEEN.

After leaving Townsend's office the deceased went directly to his room and retired. He undressed and went to bed. He was last seen at 3 o'clock in the afternoon by two other lodgers, who caught sight of him as he came out into the hall in his night garments and took a drink of water from the cooler. Then he returned to his room and was not seen again until found at 8 p. m. lying across his bed, as if he had fallen there while sitting on the edge of the couch endeavoring to put on his clothes.

The first indication of anything unusual going on in Major Teel's room was noted by Mrs. J. H. Peake, proprietress of the hotel. At 3 o'clock in the afternoon, as she was passing along the hall she heard something fall and break inside the room, as if a pitcher had been dropped to the floor and smashed. This afterwards turned out to be the case.

AUTHORITIES NOTIFIED.

Chief Lockart was immediately notified of the lawyer's sudden death and he sent for Justice Spencer. The news spread quickly and it soon became noised about that Major Teel had committed suicide.

This report however is discredited by those who knew the dead man best and the circumstances strengthen the theory that death was due to natural causes.

The body was removed to Ross' undertaking establishment and was this morning being prepared for burial. The opinion of the embalmer is that death was due to apoplexy, for the face of the corpse was blackened by the blood collecting there.

The suicidal theory was strengthened somewhat by the fact that deceased was divorced from his wife and since that time has appeared to be weighted down with his troubles, as well as bowed down with his weight of years—for he was more than 80 years old. His wife procured a divorce during the last term of court and Major Teel complained bitterly prior to that time about his domestic troubles. His wife was many years his junior.

Since the divorce was granted Major Teel has been stopping at lodging houses, with his 8 year old son, Jimmy. He had several other young children, but they all remained with their mother. Jimmy was absent from the hotel when his father died.

An investigation of the bedroom revealed that there was no evidence of a struggle and nothing to indicate that poison had been administered. Deceased had been stopping at the American about ten days.

Two grown sons by a former wife survive the deceased in this city. They are in the employ of Krakauer, Zork & Moye.

HIS LIFE.

Major T. T. Teel was born near Terre Haute, Indiana, about 82 years ago and came to Texas when a young man. In 1845 he enlisted in the United States army and fought throughout the Mexican war as a captain.

He settled in San Antonio in 1849 and practiced law there until the outbreak of the civil war when he organized a company of artillery and went to the front in the service of the Confederacy with Sebley's brigade. It was at that time that Major Teel first became known in this part of the country for the artillery came direct to El Paso and met the Union troops advancing from Colorado and California.

Major Teel was promoted to the rank of major and during the many battles in which he participated in New Mexico and other portions of the west distinguished himself.

After the Confederates were defeated he endeavored to retreat across New Mexico with his artillery, but so many horses and men were killed that many of the cannon were buried at various points along the route and a number of them have never yet been discovered, although Major Teel claimed to be able to point out their exact location.

In 1865 Major Teel reopened a law office at San Antonio and soon acquired an immense practice. He became noted as being one of the best criminal and land lawyers in the state and it is estimated that his income for many years was enormous. For all that he died poor.

In 1888 he located in El Paso and formed a partnership with Messrs Merchant and Wilcox, the firm being known as Merchant, Teel and Wilcox.

This firm was dissolved in 1890 and since that time Major Teel has continued to practice here, although his age was beginning to tell on him and his clients forsook him, to take their business to younger members of the profession.

He was at the time of his death drawing a pension from the government for the Mexican war and recently tendered his services to the president, offering to go to the front as a major of artillery, in which capacity he had had ample experience.

REMAINS SHIPPED

The remains were shipped to San Antonio on the S. P. train today. The body was escorted to the depot by many members of the local bar.