

Versailles Leader
17 Mar 1939

William T. Kidwell Died of Heart Attack

Had Been Rural Carrier On Route
No. 4 For the Past
17 Years.

William Turner Kidwell, 51, died at his home in Versailles at 1 o'clock a. m., Monday, March 13, following a long period of ill health, during which time he had been a patient in various government hospitals for treatment of heart disease and kindred ailments. He had been confined to his home since Christmas, having suffered a severe heart attack while carrying the mail, and his condition appeared to be greatly improved when death came suddenly Monday morning.

William Turner Kidwell was born in Versailles, July 6, 1887, a son of Joshua and Elizabeth Kidwell. He grew to manhood in this community, attended the Versailles schools, and with the exception of about five years in the U. S. army and a short time in Montana, had lived his entire life in Morgan county.



He was a carpenter by trade and worked with his father and brothers here until he enlisted in the army in 1915. He participated in the Mexican war and when the United States entered the World War he was among the first to go overseas. There he served 18 months in actual warfare and spent a year with the army of occupation following the armistice.

June 19, 1923, he was united in marriage to Sarah Elizabeth Cooper. The ceremony was performed at the home of Mrs. Nannie Scott at Marvin. He leaves his wife and four children, William T., Jr., 14, Mary, 11, Betty Ann, 7, and Dwaine, 4. Also one sister, Mrs. Frank Munson, Lock Springs, Mo., and four brothers, Albert, Samuel, Robert and Clyde, all of Versailles.

He was a member of the Walter Elkins Post of Veterans of Foreign Wars in Sedalia.

Turner Kidwell was a member of one of the pioneer families of Versailles and Morgan county. Not given to social things, his chief interest was his family and his work and it can be said that he was devoted to both. For the past 17 years he had carried the mail on Route 4 out of Versailles and during that time had become a close friend of hundreds of persons in this section.

He had served his country well—giving all, even his health—that her honor might be upheld at home and abroad and it is fitting indeed that the last rites were attended by and participated in by his comrades in the V. F. W. and by members of the Morgan County Post of the American Legion.

Funeral services were held from the Kidwell funeral parlors Wednesday afternoon, March 15. Rev. E. B. Woods was the officiating minister. Burial was in the Versailles cemetery. The body lay in state at the funeral parlors for two hours before the funeral services.

Selected hymns were sung by Mrs. Dorothy Buchanan and Mrs. Ray L. Williams, accompanied at the organ by Mrs. Wala Franse.

At the graveside in the Versailles cemetery members of the Walter Elkins Post V. F. W., Sedalia, took charge of the service. Following the ritual and as the large American flag, with which the casket was draped, was being folded, Echo Taps was played by two buglers, Russell Hall, Jr. and Walter Kistner.

The pallbearers were postoffice employees with whom Mr. Kidwell had worked for many years.