

Joplin Daily Globe
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JOHN T. STEELE, 81, DIES AT WEBB CITY

Prominent Retired Business Man
Ill for Some Time—a Former
Undertaker.

Webb City, Mo., Aug. 25.—John Thomas Steele, 81 years old, prominent retired business man, died at 5:50 o'clock this afternoon at his home, 114 South Pennsylvania avenue. He had been in ill health for some time, but had been bedfast only the last few weeks.

He was born in Ebonville, Mo., and moved to Webb City in 1899.

He was one of the first licensed embalmers in the district and was continuously in the undertaking business until 1929. The business was operated as the Steele Undertaking Company. In 1929 he sold his interests, but the business was conducted under the same firm name, until 1935 when it was changed to Haines and Woodard Undertaking Company, which was sold the following year and the name changed to the Hedge-Nelson funeral home. Mr. Steele operated his business at the same site, now occupied by the Hedge-Nelson funeral home, for 15 years.

An Active Mason.

He was a member of the Knights Templar and Scottish Rite of Joplin, a past patron of the A. F. & A. M. of Webb City and past patron of the Eastern Star chapter of Webb City. He was an honorary member of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, and a member of the First Baptist church. He served the Baptist church as deacon for more than half a century. While in business here he took an active part in all civic and social affairs.

Surviving are his widow, Mrs. Dora E. Steele; five daughters, Mrs. T. Ray Table of Clayton, Mo.; Mrs. George W. Catts of Kansas City, Mrs. E. T. Munson of Syracuse, N. Y., Mrs. Guy H. Woodward of Tulsa, and Mrs. E. M. Smith of St. Louis; a brother, W. H. Steele of Boonville, and three sisters, Mrs. Georgia Rennison of Boonville, Mrs. W. T. Toler of Columbia, Mo., and Mrs. John Muntzel of St. Louis.

The Hedge-Nelson funeral home will be in charge of funeral arrangements.