

DEATH CLAIMS HON W R KINYON

Prominent Pioneer Banker and Fin-
ancier Passes Away At Home
Tuesday Morning.

WAS IN FAILING HEALTH
BY REASON OF OLD AGE

The Funeral Was Held From His
Home On Thursday
Afternoon.

Hon. W. R. Kinyon died at his home in this city last Tuesday, June 2d, in the morning at 8:15 o'clock. Mr. Kinyon's death was caused from asthma and chronic bronchitis. He was aged 81 years, 3 months and 21 days. The funeral was held from the house last Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock, Rev. E. E. Emhoff, pastor of the Presbyterian church officiating. Dr. George C. Tanner from Faribault, an old friend of the family, and pioneer of this county, offered prayer. The body was laid to rest in the family vault in Forest Hill cemetery. Mr. Kinyon is survived by an only son, George R. Kinyon and a large circle of relatives and friends. Mr. Kinyon has ever enjoyed the respect and esteem and honor of his associates, business friends and fellow townsmen. The following biography from the History of Steele County is of interest:

Hon. William Riley Kinyon, retired president of the First National Bank, has had an active part in the upbuilding of Steele county and his shrewd business acumen and integrity has assisted the farmers and business men of the county in weathering more than one period of financial stress. He was born in Jefferson county, New York, February 3, 1833 and there received his early education. Left fatherless at the age of seventeen years, he had to work hard as a youth, doing various odd jobs, including service in a dairy. Determined to make the most of his talents and to rise above his circumstances he spent all his spare time in reading and study. Later by stern self-denial he was enabled to study a few terms at Union Academy, Belleville, N. Y. Laboring under almost every conceivable disadvantage he nevertheless, at the age of twenty-one, in 1854, was so far advanced as to enter the junior class of Union College, Schenectady, N. Y., graduating with honors and delivering the valedictory of the Adelpic Society. The two winters before graduating, he taught school, following the college curriculum all the time and keeping up with his classes. Soon after completing his studies in college, Mr. Kinyon moved to Juneau, Wis., and taught school one year. Subsequently he spent several months in the office of the clerk of the court, reading law all the time he was in Juneau. In the spring of 1858 he was admitted to the bar, and the same year came to Owatonna being admitted to practice at once upon his arrival. A few days after Minnesota was admitted as a state, Mr.

Kinyon purchased a small building where the First National Bank building is located. Here he opened a law and abstract office. In 1866, in company with Jason C. Easton, he opened a private bank which has since become the First National Bank. In the early days Mr. Kinyon became associated in law practice with the late Hon. Lewis L. Wheelock, a partnership which continued until 1872, when Mr. Kinyon retired from the law to devote all his time to finance.

In 1903 after thirty-three years of faithful and efficient service, Mr. Kinyon resigned his position as president of the First National Bank and retired. Since then he has traveled extensively, taking various trips to Europe, through old Mexico, and through the Canal Zone, including Panama and Venezuela. Mr. Kinyon was a member of the lower house of the Minnesota Legislature in 1869, chief clerk of the same house in 1869 and 1870, and again member and also speaker of the house in 1875 and 1876.

He has been a member of the school board and of the city council. Since 1883 he has been treasurer of what is now Pillsbury Academy, and also served on the executive committee. Few men have been more active in Masonry in this state than Mr. Kinyon. He was the first Worshipful Master of Star in the East Lodge No. 33, A. F. & A. M., and the second commander of the Cyrene

Commandery, No. 9, Knights Templar.

Mr. Kinyon was originally a Douglas Democrat, but since the outbreak of the Civil War he has adhered to the Republican party. The subject of this sketch was married in December 1857, at Juneau, Wis., to Mettie Gillet, and to this union has been born one son, George R., president of the First National Bank.

The life and character of William R. Kinyon need no eulogy from the pen of the biographer. His name has been prominent in the affairs of the county and state for over half a century, and in all that time his integrity has never been questioned. Samuel and Dolly (Wheelock) Kinyon, parents of W. R. Kinyon, were staunch old New Englanders. The grandfather, Joshua Kinyon, was in Vermont. Isaac and Lydia (Harrington) Gillette, parents of Mrs. W. R. Kinyon, were natives of Wayne county, New York. They settled in Wisconsin in 1856, and later came to Minnesota. The father died at an early age, and the mother died in Owatonna in 1901. the war of 1812. Samuel Kinyon was a successful farmer. The Wheelocks are one of the oldest families in