

FUNERAL TODAY HON. G. W. HARDIN VICE PRESIDENT AND GENERAL MANAGER OF E. T. & W. N. C. RY

One of Johnson City's Most Prominent and Useful Citizens Passed Away on Friday Evening. Benefactor of Milligan College and Church Leader. Facts About His Successful Career.

The funeral of the late George W. Hardin, who died Friday afternoon, will be held from the residence, 515 E. Watauga Avenue, at 4:30 p. m. today. Interment will follow in Oak Hill Cemetery. The body will lie in state in the home from 12:30 to 3:30 this afternoon.

The funeral service will be in charge of Dr. H. J. Derthick, President of Milligan College, assisted by Rev. W. E. Sweeney, pastor of the Church of Christ, and Rev. Jason L. MacMillan, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, of this city. Two numbers will be sung by the Rotary Quartette, and Rev. Jason MacMillan will pronounce the Rotary appreciation.

Active pall-bearers: Adam B. Crouch, James Bales, Robert Imboden, J. E. Vance, Harry Gump and Sam Sells.

Honorary pall bearers named are: W. O. Dyer, James A. Pouder, Robert W. Martin, Francis Allison, Hammond Prosser, Edwin Hunter, Guy L. Smith, B. W. Watson, R. C. Hunter and J. W. Crumley.

Flower bearers selected are Mesdames Guy L. Smith, Winton Chambers, J. M. Buck, W. O. Dyer, D. A. Jobe, W. E. Swann, C. S. Bowers.

BORN AT CRANBERRY

George W. Hardin was born September 1st, 1864, at Cranberry, N. C. He was not yet fifty eight years of age when the end came Friday afternoon at 5:45 o'clock. He is survived by Mrs. Hardin, formerly Miss Nola Cameron, three children: Mary, wife of L. W. McCown, James C. Hardin and George D. Hardin; and one brother, James C. Hardin, of Kenova, West Virginia.

WAS WIDELY KNOWN

The late George W. Hardin was one of the most widely and favorably known citizens of this section. His death touches many hearts and brings far reaching sorrow and sympathy. He was a man of wide interests. Though born in Cranberry where his father, Jordon C. Hardin was then located as a station agent of the railroad of which he was to become the master, the greater part of his life was spent in Tennessee, principally in Johnson City. His father was one of the organizers of the Church of Christ in Johnson City, becoming an elder of the church, and for years acting as superintendent of the Bible School.

DEVOTED TO CHURCH WORK

While this church was struggling along with a dozen or less members, a number of older citizens recall George W. Hardin, the boy of twelve riding from the old "Hardin Place" into town on winter mornings with bundles of kindlings with which he built the fires and made ready for church services Sunday for the little body of faithful christian members. The same spirit manifested in the boy has been the predominate spirit of George W. Hardin the man. He was always seeking the weak

GRADUATE OF MILLIGAN

Mr. Hardin attended Milligan College, riding back and forth from home to school. He graduated in the class of 1882. This class was composed of Lucy Hardin, his sister, now dead, Lula Crockett, Aaron Ferguson, Bruce Armoutrout, George Boren, Charlie Carson and J. H. Smith. He was known in school as a close student and a young man of highest integrity. He engaged in athletics and was on probably the first base ball team that Milligan College ever had. His love of athletics, and especially base ball, never left him. He was a constant attendant at the base ball games and was considered one of the best "fans" in the bleachers. When the season opened this year it was his request that he be taken out to the opening game, but his physician, on account of his physical condition, declined to permit him to go. Only on last Wednesday preceeding his death on Friday, he had all the details and plays of the game of that day gone over with him by one who had seen the game, and showed great delight and interest in them.

BEGAN RAILROAD SERVICE

George W. Hardin entered the railroad service in 1886 as a switchman for the East Tennessee and Western North Carolina Railway. With the single exception of two years when he was connected with the Norfolk and Western Railway, from that time until his death he was connected with the East Tennessee and Western North Carolina Railway. He was consecutively promoted to brakeman, conductor, yard master, station agent and master of transportation department, and in July 1901 was made Superintendent of the Railway. This was when he first took active charge over the Railway. In 1905 he was made Vice President and Superintendent and in 1918 he was made Vice President and General Manager and a director. During the time he has had charge of the Railroad he has had personal supervision over the entire system. The road has been extended to Boone, N. C., and the success which has attended his efforts and efficient supervision of this railroad has easily permitted him to take his place among the most efficient railroad officials of this country.

HANDLED MILLIGAN FINANCES

About fifteen years ago Mr. Hardin took active charge of the finances of Milligan College and has had charge of them until the time of his death. Under the efficient presidency of H. J. Derthick, with whom Geo. W. Hardin worked hand in hand, he lived to see the foundations of this institution broadened, and lived to see friends with means who have come to its help and succor, until today it is one of the best equipped institutions in this entire section of the country. Doubtlessly he has contributed from his own means for the welfare of this institution, not less than forty five or fifty thousand dollars. When the old institution burned and it looked for a time as if it would be rebuilt elsewhere, it was to no small degree due to the influence of George W. Hardin that the college remained at Milligan. Verily, he was Milligan College's grand old man.

VIGOROUS CHURCH WORKER

In church work in Johnson City, Mr. Hardin was an elder in the Christian Church and one of its Trustees. He was one of its largest givers, both to spiritual purposes and building funds. No part of its success and growth is not linked up with the efforts of Geo. W. Hardin. Mr. Hardin was Chairman of the State Board of the Christian Church in the State of Tennessee, and was a Trustee of the Educational Foundation Fund, which is massing millions of dollars to put behind institutions which promote Christian education. He was a large contributor to the cause of missions. In the Bible School of the Christian Church he always delighted in teaching in the little folks' departments.

SPONSORED WORTHY CAUSES

As a citizen of Johnson City and this community he always sponsored worthy causes, and was never solicited in vain for funds to be used in some worth while cause. He was a member of the Rotary Club of this place. As a father and husband, he was kind, devoted and loving. As a neighbor, all who lived close to him spoke his praise and mourn his loss. Truly it can be said of Geo. W. Hardin that "none knew him but to love him, nor spoke him but to praise." At 57 years of age he had so labored in the causes to which his heart was devoted that the machinery of his body, strained by long and arduous toil, broke and gave way. He lives, however, in the memories of those who knew him, and by the integrity of his character and the unselfish labor and toil which he has given for those causes which lay close to his heart, he will exert an influence for good in this city and section for years yet to come.

ROTARIANS TO ATTEND

The members of the Johnson City Rotary club are expected to attend the funeral of Rotarian George Hardin this afternoon in a body, the members gathering at the home at 4.30 o'clock. In addition to the large number from the city who will attend the last tribute several score of employes of the E. T. and W. N. C. railroad will come to Johnson City this morning and at noon for the service. The train which usually leaves at noon for the return trip will not go until after the service.