

DEATH CLAIMS BURT LENHART THIS MORNING

Prominent Decatur Attorney Dies After An Extended Illness

E. Burt Lenhart, 66, secretary of the Adams county bar association, member of a pioneer Adams county family and of the Decatur law firm, Lenhart, Heller & Schurger, died this morning at 7:30 o'clock of complications at the Adams county memorial hospital where he had been a patient for nearly three weeks.

Mr. Lenhart had been in poor health for the last few years and seriously ill for about a month. He was prominent in many civic, fraternal, financial, religious and political organizations during his life in Decatur.

Mr. Lenhart was born in Peterson, October 1, 1871, the son of John H. and Tillie Stevens-Lenhart. He received his early education at Peterson, attended the Decatur high school and Tri-State Normal school in Angola.

For a few years he was head lawyer in the old firm of Steele & Lenhart Mills at Peterson. In the fall of 1893, he moved to Decatur and served for six years as deputy Adams county clerk. In 1903 he became one of the directors and organizers of the Decatur Abstract & Loan company.

Admitted to Bar

In 1896 Mr. Lenhart was admitted to the Adams county bar and was a member of the former law firm of Hooper and Lenhart. After the death of the other member of the firm, Paul G. Hooper, Mr. Lenhart formed a partnership with Henry B. Heller under the name of Lenhart & Heller in November __18. In April of 1926, Fred Schurger was taken into the firm under its present name, Lenhart, Heller & Schurger.

Mr. Lenhart served as prosecutor of Adams county from 1919 to 1925, three two-year terms, having been elected on the Democratic ticket. He was a prominent Democrat.

For a number of years Mr. Lenhart served as superintendent of the Decatur M. E. church Sunday school and for the last 20 years was a member of the official board of the church.

He was past chancellor, district deputy and past representative to the grand lodge of the Knights of Pythias. He served as a trustee of the lodge when the present home was built. He was also a member of the Masonic lodge. He was a charter member and first counsel of the local camp of the Modern Woodmen of

America. He was also a past noble grand of the Odd Fellows lodge. With Mrs. Lenhart, he was a member of the Pythian Sisters lodge.

Prominent in Finance

He served in a number of financial organizations in the city. He had been secretary-treasurer of the Adams county national farm loan association since its organization and was a member of the Decatur Provident Building & Loan Association since its organization and was secretary of the association at the time of his death.

Secretary of Bar

He had served as secretary of the Adams county bar association for the last 10 or 15 years.

Mr. Lenhart was married to Martha Ellen Johnson, October 1, 1892. She survives. Other survivors are three children, Mrs. Charles Bowman, of Rockford; Orvall, of Wren, Ohio, and Alice at home. Miss Alice Lenhart is deputy county treasurer under Jeff Liechty.

A brother, Norman, and a sister, Mrs. Millie I. Rice, both of Decatur, and nine grandchildren survive.

Funeral services will be held Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock at the home. Knights of Pythias rites will be held. Burial will be made in the Decatur cemetery. The Rev. Ralph Waldo Graham, pastor of the Decatur M. E. church, will officiate.

The body will be returned to the home late this evening and may be viewed from Thursday morning until the time of the funeral.

Tributes Paid

Many tributes were paid to Mr. Lenhart today by his associates in business, fraternal, religious, civic and other organizations. The following tribute was paid him by Herry B. Heller and Fred T. Schurger, his partners in law practice:

"It is said that the way to secure friends is to be one. E. Burt Lenhart must have had many friends for he was a friend to all. During the past weeks the inquiry has come from every part of the county: 'How is Mr. Lenhart -- he is an old friend of mine.'

"In the passing of Mr. Lenhart the city and community have lost a loyal citizen, his church a conscientious member, his home a loving and devoted husband and

father, and we, his associates, a true and faithful partner. We greatly deplore his death."