

Funeral Today for John Parrish, 99

Funeral services will be held at 2:30 p.m. Monday at the Zwick Funeral Home for John R. Parrish, 99, retired school teacher and Washington township advisory board member, who died suddenly and unexpectedly at the Adams county memorial hospital at 6 p.m. Friday.

Mr. Parrish was taken to the hospital for the first time in his life on Wednesday for observation when he reported feeling not too well, and his physician thought his heart was showing signs of trouble. He was perfectly lucid, however, and was doing fine when he took his medicine about 5:20 p.m., asking for an extra glass of water. When the nurse next checked on him, he had quietly and suddenly passed away.

The son of Joshua R. and Deborah Russell Parrish, he was born in Washington township west of Decatur January 6, 1871, when Ulyses S. Grant was president of the United States. His grandfather, John Parrish, had emigrated to Adams county from Tuscarawas and Belmont counties, Ohio about 1850. His father had taught school from 1857-1862, and then enlisted in Co. H, 89th Ind. Vol., receiving April 9, 1864, what was thought to have been a mortal wound on the battle field at Pleasant Mill, La. He was left for dead, but was found by his two brothers, Joseph L. and Abner S. He was honorably discharged July 28, 1865 and lived until 1919.

Mr. Parrish's early life was spent on the farm in Washington township, where he grew to manhood with his brothers and sisters, all now deceased: Jasper Newton Parrish, Ida K. Poling, Mary A. Beavers, Anna Annen, and Marion F. Parrish.

The Parrish family moved to Decatur in 1888 when the 240-acre improved farm was sold. John R. Parrish attended only the township schools, and was graduated with a county diploma in the spring of 1889 from the Washington school, a two-story frame building. His first teacher was Gus Gregory in 1876.

Mr. Parrish took his teacher's examination before John F. Snow, long-time county superintendent and historian, in August, but didn't get his one-year certificate until September. When he went to the township trustee to apply for a job, there were 90 others ahead of him for seven jobs!

However, patrons of the Chapman school were dissatisfied with the young lady teachers they had had for several years, so Mr. Parrish's father asked the trustee, Henry Voglewede, if he would hire his son John if a majority of the neighbors signed for him. Mr. Voglewede agreed, and 100 per cent of the patrons signed, getting Mr. Parrish his first job in vocation he followed for 61 years. Township records show John Henry Voglewede hired him Aug. 31, 1889, for \$1.50 a day for 110 days in district one. He had 19 pupils.

Following his six years at various Washington township schools, Mr. Parrish taught a year at the old Monmouth school before coming to the Decatur system where he taught for 54 years, including the 1909-1938 period as principal of North Ward, and the last 12 years at Lincoln, after starting at Central. He retired in 1950.

Mr. Parrish, a lifelong Democrat, served on the Decatur library board and eight four-year terms on the Washington township advisory board, last standing for election at the age of 92. In 1966 he declined to run for a ninth term.

On July 5, 1906 Mr. Parrish was married to Nellie M. Krick, daughter of Henry and Sarah Mangold Krick, both of old Adams county families. Mrs. Parrish preceded him in death Nov. 28, 1949. Since that time he has lived alone in his home at 231 N. 5th street, proud to do his own cooking and work.

Just this month he told a friend that his refrigerator had completely broken down and he would have to buy a new one. "I wouldn't mind it so much if I were only 90, but I hate like the dickens to buy one when I'm 99," he chuckled.

Mr. and Mrs. Parrish leave two children, J. Ronald Parrish and Mrs. Miriam Parrish Hall, both of Fort Wayne; eight grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Mr. Parrish was a devout member of the First United Methodist Church, attending the dedication of the First Methodist church building in the 1890's, as well as the recent dedication of the new addition.

He was a lifelong member of the Knights of Pythias Lodge, and of Kekionga Lodge 65.

Visitors may call at the Zwick Funeral Home after 10 a.m. Sunday. Services will be at the Funeral Home at 2:30 p.m. Monday, the Rev. Noel Reed, assistant pastor of the First United Methodist church, officiating.