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JOHN MOBLEY,

One of the Oldest Residents Instantly Killed.

On Saturday evening, December 25th, 1886 (Christmas evening) the village of Canal Fulton was thrown into the most intense excitement as with bated breath and blanched cheek one citizen reported to another that Mr. John Mobley had been instantly killed by an accident. Investigation proved that the rumor was an absolute fact.

Mr. Mobley had started up town to see about his horse which had been driven up street by his son and grand-son, had gotten into a carry-all with Joseph Walzer at or near his own residence to ride. Near the residence of Charles Weit on the east side of Canal street, the pony which Walzer was driving became frightened and threw both men from the buggy. They fell against a small maple tree. Mr. Mobley was instantly killed, his neck being dislocated.

The deceased was the oldest of a family of six (6) children and was born in East Union Township, Wayne county, O., on February 15th, 1815, where he resided until 15 years of age, when he went to Brookfield in this, Stark county, where he learned the saddler's trade and worked at the same until 1835, when he removed to Canal Fulton, where he was actively engaged in various kinds of business, with the exception of the year 1849, when he followed the gold excitement with a trip across the continent to California, until 1885 when he retired from active mercantile pursuits. For many years he worked at his trade, then engaged in the tanning business and later also in the boot and shoe and clothing business in which he did a very extensive and successful business. At the time of his death he had attained the distinction of having resided in Canal Fulton longer than any other man then living.

Mr. Mobley was always a leading spirit in all enterprises intended to advance the interests of the community in which he resided.

He was one of the few men who, for public benefit, church, temperance or charity, would electrify the throng by heading the list and saying, "I'll give," and the amount was always liberal and many a time a good cause has been carried through by the tide, thus made to flow. He was not an highly educated man but he had so much energy and vivacity, he was so impulsive and active that every cause in which he was engaged felt his direct influence. He was for many years a leading, prominent and aggressive temperance man.

He was for the last 15 years one of the foremost men in the Methodist Episcopal church in this place, never being behind any in advancing the interest of the church.

He was a prominent member of the I. O. O. F., being a charter member of Lawrence Lodge, No. 297, and the prime mover in instituting the lodge in this place.

He held many local official positions during the active part of his life but was never an office seeker, when he accepted an office it was as a duty and not for personal aggrandizement.

The death of Mr. Mobley, so sudden, so unexpected, taken from family, home, kindred and friends without a moments warning, cast a deep gloom over the entire community. He is missed on every hand and long hence will be the day when his many acts of charity, his good fellowship, his enthusiastic devotion to many good causes and his fidelity to his friends shall be forgotten.

He was twice married, first to Miss Mary Gibson in 1835. As the fruit of their union, there were born 4 children only one of whom, Mrs. Bell Kling survives him. His first wife died in 1845 and in 1847 he was married to Miss Mary Augustine. The fruits of this union were three (3) children, one of whom a daughter died at the age of three years. Another of whom Mr. Charles Mob-

ley who died in the spring of 1877 at the age of 23 years is well and favorably remembered by all of our citizens who resided here previous to that time, and Ellsworth E. the youngest son who survives him.

The latter wife, who drank with him the cup of life's joys and shared with him its sorrows for almost 40 years survives him. He left 9 grand, and 2 great grand children.

The funeral took place from his late residence on Tuesday, the 28th of December, 1886. The remains being removed to the M. E. church where he so often had worshiped and where the funeral services were conducted by the pastor Rev. T. Struggles, assisted by Reverends Whitworth, of Seville, and Elliott and Bretz of this place. The remains were then laid at rest in the Union cemetery. The funeral was attended by a great concourse of people, profoundly impressed and in deep sympathy with the bereft widow and family. The I. O. O. F. were in attendance in formal procession and took part in the funeral ceremonies at the cemetery in honor of their departed brother. *.*