

Dies at Evening



WILLIAM MARTIN DAVANT

DEATH COMES TO WILLIAM M. DAVANT

AS EVENING SETS IN
Was Long Prominent in
Business and Finance

Death came peacefully to William Martin Davant yesterday at 6:15 o'clock, just after evening had set in, closing the career of a man who had been for years prominent in the business and financial circles of Savannah.

Though in ill health for over a year, and conscious of the fact, himself, that his condition was unsatisfactory, Mr. Davant's death comes as a shock to many people of the city. He died of heart trouble, following a rapid sinking spell yesterday at noon. Sunday evening some of his close personal friends had seen him and found him cheerful and apparently in good health, though later in the evening he had complained of being ill. To his most intimate friends and his family the end had been anticipated.

The funeral will be held this afternoon at 3:30 o'clock from the residence, 1717 Jefferson street. Rev. S. B. McGlohon, rector of St. Paul's church, conducting the services. Interment will be in Bonaventure cemetery. The pallbearers will

be among his old associates, five of them having been with him in the old Merchants National Bank, of which he had been cashier before its amalgamation with the Citizens & Southern Bank. They are C. V. Bryan, W. L. Salter, D. A. Spann, A. F. King, V. B. Jenkins, and Herschel V. Jenkins, long friend. There will be pallbearers, this Davant's express told his friend to be laid to rest had worked and that am- cluded Hersch

Mr. Davant was born in Jasper county, South Carolina, November 10, 1862. He attended school at Oxford and in 1877 became connected with the Central Railroad and Banking Company. In 1884 he joined the Central Railroad Bank, as it was then called, and following the changes in the railway system became assistant auditor. In 1906 he entered the Merchants National Bank, becoming its cashier, and was in this position until Dec. 31, 1918, when the bank was purchased by the Citizens & Southern Bank. He was then offered and accepted the position of vice president of the Chatham Bank, remaining with this financial institution until he felt his health prevented him from actively engaging in the banking business and its exacting requirements.

He was the son of Col. R. J.

Davant and Anna C. (Maner) Davant. In 1887 he was married to Miss Janey Warren, of Albany, Ga. He is survived by two daughters, Miss Janey W. Davant, of Savannah, and Mrs. O. H. Lamborn, of Orange, N. J., one son, William M. Davant, Jr., of Miami, Fla., and two sisters, Mrs. R. M. Berrien, of Atlanta, and Mrs. J. D. Pickard, of East Orange, N. J.

His daughter, Mrs. Lamborn, and his sister, Mrs. Pickard, are passengers on a steamer arriving this morning, they having sailed at the end of the week to spend the holidays in Savannah with their father and brother.

Mr. Davant was a man who made countless friends. He was known personally to many Savannahians. He was a brother of the late Richard J. Davant, Mayor of Savannah, and himself had served as alderman of the city under Mayor M. M. Stewart. He was considered a man of sound judgment, a loyal Savannahian since his first coming here to make this city his home, and a man of such wholesome and congenial personality that he enjoyed a wide popularity. One of the most noticeable of his personal traits was the devotion so evident between him and his brother, a matter of frequent comment among people who knew them both.

As a banker Mr. Davant enjoyed the confidence of men high in finance and humble in worldly possessions. He had a particular regard for personal integrity. He was a man of such high type personal traits that he often went out of his way in meeting with anyone who came in contact with him was convinced of his scrupulousness, and benefited thereby.

Died December 13
Monday 1926

PRE

JUNE 13 1899

13, 1899.

GOL. R. J. DAVANT DIES AT GUYTON

Was a Gallant Member of
Wheeler's Corps.

For Many Years in Business
in Savannah.

His Health Has Been Bad for
Some Time.

He Leaves a Wife and Five
Children.

Funeral Arrangements Not
Yet Completed.

This morning at his residence in Guyton Colonel Richard J. Davant died after a long illness. He had been in wretched health more than a year and, although actively engaged in business in this city up to 1896, he had begun to fail visibly. He was a clean, gallant, noble man. The soul of honor and the perfect type of courage, he had lived a life of long activity and high character and welcomed his end as a soldier after active warfare lies down to pleasant dreams.

Colonel Davant has been a prominent figure in Savannah for 40 years. He was born in Barnwell district, South Carolina, and moved early in life to this city. At the breaking out of the civil war he enlisted in the cavalry service and after General Anderson's promotion became lieutenant colonel of Fifth cavalry. He was a fearless, dashing, conscientious officer, one of the most daring sabres in the army, and never refused a chance to give battle whether at the head of his squadron or hit to hit in single combat on the field of battle.

Colonel Davant was in Wheeler's cavalry during the war and when the little general passed through Guyton on the president's train last December Colonel Davant, although then very infirm, turned out in the early morning to greet him.

After the war Colonel Davant was the senior member of the house of Davant, Waples & Co., rice and cotton factors. Mr. Julian Myers, the junior member of the firm, died last week. Colonel Davant was the sole surviving member of that wellknown house up to this morning. He was a strict and consistent member of the Methodist church and in times of peace and war walked uprightly before God and man, performing his duty at all times and cleaving to the right "as God gave him the power to see the right."

Colonel Davant was a graduate of the Charleston Citadel and came to Savannah in 1853 or 1859. He married Miss Anna Manner, who was a resident of South Carolina, and his widow and several children survive him. He leaves two sons in Savannah. One of them is Mr. William M. Davant, cashier of the Merchants National bank, and the other is Mr. Richard J. Davant, Jr., who is in the insurance business in this city. Mrs. Richard Berrien of Atlanta is his daughter and Mrs. James West of the same city, who died some time ago, was his daughter. Mrs. J. D. Pickard of this city is another daughter.

Before the war Colonel Davant was a member of the cotton exporting firm of Davant & Lawton. Colonel Edward Lawton, who was killed at the first battle of Fredericksburg, being his partner. In 1861 Colonel Davant was elected first lieutenant of company B, Georgia Hussars, and went away to war. He was afterwards a major in the battalion commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Bird. The battalion was formed into a regiment under command of Colonel Robert H. Anderson about 1863. The next year Colonel Anderson was made a brigadier general and Lieutenant Colonel Bird and Major Davant were each promoted. This gave Major Davant the rank of Lieutenant Colonel of the Fifth Georgia cavalry. He served with this regiment until its surrender in North Carolina in 1865. In March of 1864 the Fifth cavalry was sent to General Johnston's and put in Allen's division in General Joseph Wheeler's corps.

After the war Colonel Davant returned to Savannah and was a member of the firm of Davant, Waples & Co. This firm lasted a number of years and at its dissolution Colonel Davant entered the insurance business. Until a short time ago he was a member of the insurance firm of R. J. Davant & Son. He was an honorary member of the Georgia Hussars and a consistent member of the Methodist church.

No information has been received relative to the arrangements for the funeral.

