

Death Claims Big-P J. K. Fields, Local Veteran

6-8-'26

Death crept in early yesterday and sealed closed the life work of James Kingsley Fields, at his flower-bordered home at 96 Barson street. With his passing there is removed a well-known and respected Santa Cruz figure, who has made this city the city of his residence for nearly forty-four years. He was known and called friend by hosts of the older folk and was familiarly known also to many of the younger generation. His integrity, conscientiousness, and strength of character were outstanding.

The end came following an illness which confined him to his bed for the past month, but he was cheerful and bright up to within a few hours of his demise. Two of the bereaved children were at his bedside when he passed away.

A residence of nearly fifty years in California was started at Red Bluff when Mr. Fields and his late wife, who preceded him in death by a little over two years, arrived in the northern city from Illinois, with a family of five children.

After a residence of about three years in Red Bluff the family came to this city and settled permanently, the family residence being at 29 Campbell St. the greater part of the time.

The deceased was a member of the local post of the G. A. R., which is to have charge of the funeral services.

Surviving are two sons and two daughters, and eight grandchildren. E. W. Fields of the Sentinel Publishing Co. is the eldest bereaved son. Irvin Fields of Fresno, Mrs. Frank Sawver of this city and Mrs. J. V. Rathke of San Francisco are the remaining children.

James Kingsley Fields was born in Kane county, Illinois, almost 80 years ago. As a youth he enlisted as a private in Co. B, 17th regiment of cavalry, Illinois volunteers, under Capt. C. L. Shapley. He served over two years, or until honorably discharged at the age of 18 at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, in Dec. 1865.

He was married at the age of 20 to Eliza A. Gardner. The wedding took place in Bailey township, McHenry Co., Illinois, in 1867.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p. m. Wednesday at the Wessendorf mortuary. Interment will be made at Oakwood cemetery.