

Death of a Prominent Figure in New Orleans History.



BENJ. F. FLANDERS.

Only a day or two between the deaths of two of the ex-mayors of the city of New Orleans. On Wednesday last it became a duty to chronicle the death of Ex-Mayor John R. Conway, and now the demise is announced of Ex-Mayor Benjamin Franklin Flanders, at the advanced age of 80 years. Mr. Flanders died at his home, the Benalva Farm, in the parish of Lafayette.

The announcement of the death of Mr. Flanders comes through his son-in-law, A. L. Redden, a well known resident of the Sixth district, and in business the confidential man in the employ of the firm of E. J. Hart & Co. Mr. Redden was at the bedside of his father-in-law at the time of his death. Pneumonia was the cause of his demise.

Ex-Mayor Flanders was born in Bridgewater, N. H., in January, 1816. He graduated to the greatness he acquired by his own energy. He was in all respects a self-made man. It was in 1842 that he came to this city, and after that time he filled situations that required ability and power of mind. He graduated at law before he came to this place, but it seems he did not enter into the practice of it to any extent. His first employment here was as a public school teacher, being the principal in what was then known as the first municipality. From this position he shifted to newspaper work, and in 1844 was the co-editor and proprietor of the *Trope* newspaper. Between the years 1848 and 1851 he became connected with municipal affairs, and served in the council from the Third municipality.

In 1852 he was elected secretary and treasurer of the Opelousas Railroad, a position which he held until January, 1862. In July of that year he was appointed city treasurer by military authority, and was elected to congress the following November. In 1863 he received the appointment of supervising special agent of the treasury department, which he held until the year 1866. In 1864 he occupied for some time the post of president of the First National Bank of New Orleans. In June, 1867, he was appointed governor of the state by General Sheridan, but resigned the office the following December. In 1870 he became mayor of the city, first by appointment of the governor, and subsequently in November, 1871, by the election of the people.

In later times he was chairman of the Henderson Poor Fund committee, with other gentlemen of note. With his retirement from public life Mr. Flanders went to his farm and there he resided with the members of his family. His eyesight had been affected badly for some time.

Mr. Flanders came here a staunch Republican and has always remained true to his politics. When the war between the states broke out there were threats to hang him here, but he had influential friends, and they saw him safely out of trouble. He came back after the war and has practically lived his life out here.

A wife and several children survive the deceased. Mayor Flanders married Miss Susan H. Sawyer, at Landaff, N. H. Two sons, Joseph A. and Ben F., were in attendance at the bedside of their father. There were three daughters. The eldest is the wife of Ed. R. Pelton, proprietor of the *Eclectic Magazine* in New York; the second is the wife of A. L. Redden, of this city, and the third is Mary B., who lives on the farm.

The body will be brought to this city and the interment will be in private at the Grand Street cemetery this evening at 4 o'clock.