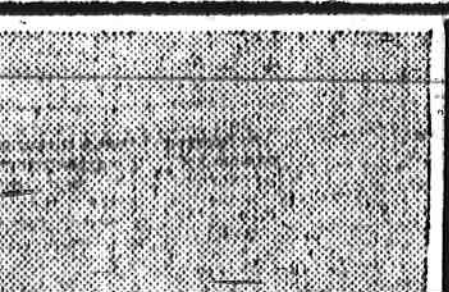


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S. J. FLETCHER DEAD AT GALLATIN, TENN.

Former President of Fletcher National Bank Succumbs at His Country Home.

HAD BEEN IN ILL HEALTH

Son, Notified by Telegram, Starts South, but Hears of Death at Louisville.

Stoughton J. Fletcher, vice president and practically the sole owner of the Fletcher National Bank, died at 11:50 o'clock yesterday morning in his country home near Gallatin, Tenn., twenty-six miles northeast of Nashville. He had been in ill health since he retired from the presidency and active management of the Fletcher Bank four years ago and his death was not altogether a surprise. Mr. Fletcher was born and reared in the old home at New Jersey and Ohio streets and lived there until he moved South for his health. He was 58 years old and a widower.

The capital stock of the Fletcher National Bank is \$1,000,000 and the surplus and undivided profits amount to \$500,000, approximately. Mr. Fletcher owned the bank property and the Fletcher home-
stead at Ohio and New Jersey streets.

Stoughton A. Fletcher, his son and president of the bank, who has a country home south of Indianapolis, received a telegram yesterday morning telling of a change for the worse in his father's condition, and he immediately started for Gallatin, accompanied by his wife. He received an announcement of his death when they arrived at Louisville, Ky.

Funeral Will Be Held Tuesday.

William A. Hughes, vice president of the bank, communicated with Stoughton A.



PIANTLE.

OFFICER SUICIDE

HILL KILLS HIMSELF

ASSIGNED FOR TRAGEDY AT
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Funeral Will Be Held Tuesday.

William A. Hughes, vice president of the bank, communicated with Stoughton A. Fletcher by long-distance telephone last night and said after the conversation that arrangements would be made for removing the body to this city. Mr. Hughes said the remains would be taken to the Fletcher home, south of the city, and the funeral would be held at that place Tuesday. Definite arrangements have not as yet been made.

Mr. Hughes received a telegram from Booth Tarkington, who is in New York, requesting that he be advised as to the date of the funeral. Mr. Hughes wired him, but does not know whether he will be able to attend.

When the late Mr. Fletcher's health began to fall about five years ago, physicians advised him to go South, and a year or so later he gave up the active management of the institution and followed their advice. He purchased an immense farm near Gallatin, and erected a palatial dwelling and several stone barns for horses and stock.

He lived there with a number of servants and for a while seemed to improve. He was able to make frequent trips to Indianapolis during the first two or three years and after that his son, Stoughton A., went South often to see his father. During the last several months, while his father had been failing, his son visited him every week or two.

Stoughton J. Fletcher inherited a half interest in the bank when his father died in 1882. Before that time his father, S. A. Fletcher, and Francis M. Churchman owned and conducted it as a private institution. Mr. Fletcher was the founder and several years afterward he formed a partnership with Mr. Churchman, who was then an employe.

Gains Complete Control.

Allen M. Fletcher assumed the interest held by Mr. Churchman and, with his brother, Stoughton J., managed it for a number of years. Allen M. later sold his shares to his brother and he conducted the institution as sole owner until 1898, when it was changed from Fletcher's Bank, a private concern, to the Fletcher National Bank.

Some stock was sold at that time to comply with the law governing national institutions, it going to members of the family, and Stoughton J. became the president. He held the office until his health failed and he resigned and his son shortly afterward was elected to succeed him.

Mr. Fletcher began his career as a clerk in the institution which now bears his name. When at the age of 18 years he returned to Indianapolis from Waltham, Mass., where he attended school, and immediately took up the clerical duties in the bank, which then was a private institution. Subsequently he was made paying teller and held that position for many years.

During his life, the late Mr. Fletcher, before the decline in health, devoted all of

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bank" asked the building man,
or I got a chance," replied
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During his life, the late Mr. Fletcher, be-
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his time to the bank. He believed that a
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him in outside ventures. He declined to
take stock in any corporation, believing
that he needed all of his moments for the
one business. It was his policy to do noth-
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Mr. Fletcher is survived by three
daughters and a son, Mrs. Julia Fletcher
Barnard, Pasadena, Cal.; Mrs. Booth
Tarkington and Miss Hilda Fletcher and
Stoughton A. Fletcher. One brother, Al-
len M. Fletcher of New York, and a sis-
ter, Mrs. M. E. Ritzinger of this city also
survive.

Bank Founded by Father.

As a banker Mr. Fletcher was success-
ful in a marked degree. He came of a
family of bankers, but possessed wonder-
ful business sagacity himself. His father
came to Indianapolis in October, 1831, with
no capital save a good constitution and
untiring industry.

He (the father) engaged in mercantile
pursuits, in which he was successful. In
1839, as a private banker, he opened an
office in a small room on Washington
street. The bank grew rapidly and, as it
is now, came to be regarded as one of
the strongest in the country.

Mr. Fletcher, in addition to banking,
turned to other enterprises. He was one
of the founders and principal owners
of the Indianapolis Gas, Light and Coke
Company. He also invested heavily in
real estate. He died March 17, 1882. His
son—by his second wife, Miss Julia Bal-
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passed away, as has been stated, proved a
worthy successor, and under his manage-
ment and since under the direction of his
son, Stoughton A., the bank has grown
and grown, no doubt attaining an im-
portance that its founder little dreamed
of, optimist and firm believer in the future
of Indianapolis though he was.

Punctuality was one of S. J. Fletcher's
marked traits. When active in the direc-
tion of the affairs of the bank, for years
he would arise early, breakfast and be at
the bank at 7 o'clock. He would open the
mail—all of it—and do practically half a
day's work before the employes reported
for duty. At noon he would go home to
lunch, but 1 o'clock always found him
back at the bank. At 3 o'clock the day
was done for him—he cast aside business
cares.

Day in and day out, for years he kept
these hours and devoted his thoughts to
business affairs. He cared not for travel,
and for years he would not be out of the
city, or, at most, leave Indiana.

Friends Pay Tribute.

Business men, especially in the finan-
cial world, had a high regard for Mr.
Fletcher's ability and were shocked by
the news of his death.

Frank D. Stansbury, president of the
Capital National Bank, said: "I had known Mr.
Fletcher for a long time and he was one
of the very good business men
I have ever known. He was much in the
confidence of the business men of this city."

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