

## *W. F. Johnson Dies*

*Sunday Morning;*

*Bedfast Ten Days*

10/6/42

W. F. Johnson passed away Sunday morning, following a long illness. He had been confined to bed for ten days.

William Francis Johnson was born, December 13, 1873, in Alma, a son of Hale and Mary E. Johnson. He came to Newton when a small child and has resided here ever since, except for a few years which he spent in Greeley, Colorado. He was married on October 17, 1899, to Miss Allie M. Harding.

He was educated in the Newton Public schools and Eureka college, graduating from the latter institution in 1890. He studied law in the office of Gibson & Johnson here, was admitted to the bar, and has since been a practicing attorney. He also carried on a large abstract business.

### **Spanish War Veteran**

Mr. Johnson was a member of Company B, Fourth Infantry, Illinois National Guard, in which he served in this country and in Cuba during the Spanish-American war. He was deeply interested in all needy veterans, not only of the Spanish-American but of the first World war, and their wives and children, and gave most freely of his service in advising and assisting them throughout the years. His helpfulness in this field and in the Red Cross and other relief work is remembered with gratitude by many throughout this and nearby communities.

He was a member of the Central Christian church, the Newton Civic Club, and the Masonic lodge, and for several years has been secretary of the Jasper County Red Cross, to which his interest led him to give much time.

### **Former County Judge**

Mr. Johnson was a leader in Republican politics, and was well known throughout Southern Illinois in party circles. He served for more than a third of a century as secretary of the Republican county committee of Jasper county. He was appointed County Judge by Governor Louis L. Emmer-son to serve out the unexpired term of Judge H. C. Davidson, who died September 4, 1930.

He is survived by his widow; his mother, Mrs. Hale Johnson; three sisters, Mrs. H. F. Kendall of Mattoon, Mrs. W. T. Evers of Denton, Texas, and Mrs. Benjamin Weir of Charleston; and six nieces and nephews. Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Johnson are an uncle and an aunt, and Mrs. L. W. Kellogg is a cousin.

Funeral services will take place from the family home here at 2:30 o'clock, this afternoon, with Rev. R. R. Finlayson, pastor of the Central Christian church, officiating. Burial will be in Riverside cemetery. Jasper post, American Legion, will conduct a full military funeral as a last mark of respect.