

Santa Anna News, Santa Anna, Coleman County, Texas, 1929

A Tribute

While deploring his untimely death at 82 years, may it be recalled and widely known there has just passed from the earthly field of action a most unusual and outstanding character and worthy citizen, who has known to all the early pioneers of Coleman and many other counties of Texas, and other states. I am referring to the lamented H. W. Kingsbery who was buried at Santa Anna, Texas, January 5, 1929.

Tho' the Methodist Church, to which he belonged, was filled to standing capacity on that cold and chilling day only a small percent of friends could hear the high tributes paid to our departed friend and neighbor.

It is therefore not alone for the consolation of relatives these lines are written, but also for others - absent and unknown - who are desirous of information, inspiration and attainment of the highest, noblest and best things of life, that some repetition or added tribute is given here.

To the writer and numerous other minds as evidenced by the various eulogies at the burial services, he occupied and filled a position among the highest type of Christian citizenship which is "the salt of the earth" and the type that helps to establish "Peace on Earth and Good Will toward man."

As we ponder, we also realize the generation just passing has seen some of the most gigantic changes ever made in the same length of period of time. These things have likewise given opportunity to the most varied personal experiences of any time in the world's history. As a result some of the greatest men, with the broadest and greatest vision, wisdom and understanding have lived during this present and passing generation, and the subject of this sketch may be classified as one of the greatest of these. Nature and such varied and testing environments seems to develop the best in the great.

In contrast to such good and great individuals, some artificial or fictitious condition or method of living in recent years appears to have developed some of the most brazen and fiendish criminals ever known to exist. With these, there are others who disregard promises and betray business obligations until the confidence of the good seems at times greatly shaken. Hence, in view of these facts and discussions of same, such people as H. W. Kingsbery are often referred to, for they are inspiring models of faithful citizenship. They are promoters and stabilizers of confidence and industry.

Since all people young and old are indebted to such faithful lives we desire to make known these things and tho' there are some who will fail to read, there are those who will hear and heed.

From another viewpoint we might state some people develop kind and princely traits naturally and these must have been more or less natural with Mr. Kingsbery. Furthermore, he professed faith in a Divine and Supreme Power and Being and those high and holy principles of "The meek and lowly Nazarene," which brings light and hope and understanding to a believer's mind. All of these forces appear to have combined to produce such a life which we are writing about. Evidence indicates these facts -- since strenuous experience of war and other hardships and trials left no outward trace of hatred, resentment or revenge. On the other hand, virtues which are

the reverse of the above, were pronounced in the highest degree.

Furthermore, office honors by a great majority of friends developed no vain or haughty attitude but the reverse traits of character remained, and office honors were declined for a second term. When a friend later urged him to run for office again he declined, stating that "public office did not suit or appeal to him, that he much preferred the pursuits of private life." Thus, and otherwise he indicated his desire for what is termed a retiring and not a public life. He longed for and loved the inspiring grandeur and beauty of natures, the great out of doors, as evidenced by activities and his beautiful home and its setting, which he cherished and ever desired to be near in his declining years.

These statements are made after a personal acquaintance of over forty years and from a history of his life from his youth. When we remember Mr. Kingsbery as a well educated youth, a soldier and officer in war at sixteen in the sixties, a cowboy in Texas in the seventies and eighties, and later an official and business man till his death, we realize he passed through one of the most daring, adventuresome and colorful periods ever known in history. We also realize that few men have ever been privileged to come into intimate contact with such extremes of the human race. These extremes include, of course, the rich and the poor, the high and the low, the good and the bad. While among the most daring, wild and reckless warriors, adventurers and cowboys, during Indian times, to the strictest and most sober obligations of the business or religious world, or the minutest demands of the social or literary critics or enthusiasts, he always seemingly understood and conducted himself with grace, ease and dignity.

His was an unusual and rare type of man, because few have ever lived with more varied richer and greater experiences, who also possessed such varied and commendable qualifications of life, and at the same time, the ability and desire to bestow and impart them to others.

While burial eulogies deplored his untimely death, and described the interesting life of the deceased, including his most sincere and cordial handshake and greeting and manifested and impressive personality, we are forced to omit such here. As we heed the limit of space and time we offer in memory of H. W. Kingsbery the following quotation, which describes so well such a high and worth life:

"He has attained success:

Who has lived well, laughed often, and loved much;

Who has regained the respect of intelligent men and the love of little children;

Who has filled his niche and accomplished his task;

Who has looked for the best in others and given the best he had;

Who has left the world better than he found it, whether by an improved poppy, a perfect poem or a rescued soil;

Whose life was an inspiration;

Whose memory was a benediction."

---- A friend.

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