

A PIONEER HERE

**Mrs. Leocadie Townsend,
Mother of Col. Dick
Townsend, Dies**

AT LOCKE, ARKANSAS

**Lived Here Many Years and
Was Well Known by all
the Older Citizens.**

A telegram was received at noon today by J. H. Heller of this office from Colonel Dick Townsend, manager of the Great Northern hotel at Chicago, announcing the death of his mother. The message read: "Mother passed away Sunday night, eleven-thirty."

Mrs. Townsend had been making her home with her daughter, Mrs. Maggie Jeffries and Aunt Main Burt at Locke, Ark., where her death occurred, presumably from infirmities as she was past four score years of age. Her name was Leocadie S. Townsend and she was a pioneer of Decatur, residing here with her husband and later with her son Dick for fifty years, during which time they were in charge of the Burt house. She left here about ten years ago going to Huntington with her daughter and later to Arkansas. She has been totally blind for several years and in poor health, but it was not known here that her condition was serious. A letter from Mrs. Jeffries last week said that Miss Burt was very low as the result of a stroke of paralysis, but no mention was made of Mrs. Townsend being ill. The death is therefore supposed to have been quite sudden.

**Decatur Daily Democrat
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Biography of her son, Richard Townsend, with details regarding his parents:

RICHARD TOWNSEND, proprietor of the Burt House at Decatur, is a native of Adams County, Indiana, born at Monmouth, November 6, 1850, a son of Eli and Leocadie (Burt) Townsend. The father was born in Albany County, New York, and was of English and Scotch parentage, and the mother of our subject was a native of Bradford County, Pennsylvania, and of English and German ancestry. They were married in January, 1858, and to them were born two children, named Richard and Maggie. The father came to Adams County, Indiana, in 1857, remaining but a short time, when he returned to his native county, his father dying in Rensselaerville, in that county, in August, 1868.

Immediately after his death the mother returned with her children to Decatur, Adams County, where she has since made her home. She is a daughter of Chester and Lucinda (Vanderlip) Burt. She was brought up principally in Elmira, New York, and there received her education. Richard Townsend, the subject of this sketch, was but an infant when his parents removed to Rensselaerville, New York, but grew to manhood in Adams County, Indiana, returning to this county with his mother. He began working at an early age, being employed at various capacities in his grandfather's hotel the Burt House, at Decatur, and has worked himself up from the humble position of bootblack to the proprietorship of the hotel. In January, 1860(sic: 1880), his grandfather Chester Burt, died, since which he has been proprietor, and owing to his skillful management, and genial and accommodating manners, it has become a favorite stopping place for the traveling public.

Biographical and Historical Record - Adams and Wells Co. Indiana Lewis Publishing Co. Chicago, IL 1887

Both contributed by OPPSheryl