

DEATH OF JOSEPH WYLIE

From the *Rock Hill Herald*, Wednesday, July 4, 1900

A Distinguished Son of York and Citizen of Chester Has Gone to His Reward

Chester has lost one of the most prominent as well as the most useful citizens in the county in the death of Mr. Joseph Wylie, which occurred at his home in that city Monday morning of Bright's disease of the kidneys. In the afternoon of the same day the remains were interred in Evergreen cemetery in that city, the funeral services being conducted in the A. R. P. church, all the ministers in the city with Rev. Oliver Johnson of Lesslie and Rev. C. E. McDonald of Winnsboro taking part in the ceremonies. In the afternoon all business in the city was suspended and the great funeral cortege attested how deeply Chester's heart had been touched by the death of the good man who was honored and loved by all.

The active pallbearers were John G. White, John R. Alexander, J. S. Colvin, R. R. Hafner, Joseph Lindsay, C. B. Betts, G. B. White, and Joseph Walker. Honorary [pallbearers] were James Hemphill, John L. Agurs, Wm. Lindsay, J. M. Fudge, J. R. Henry, Dr. S. W. Pryor, J. J. McLure, T. J. Bigham, J. L. Glenn, R. A. Love, S. B. Latham, Jno. C. McFadden, B. M. Spratt and W. H. Hardin.

Joseph Wylie was born in York County in February, 1824 in the home near Harmony now owned and occupied by Mr. W. W. White. He was a son of Thomas Wylie. At the age of 14 years he went to Lewisville, Chester county, where he was engaged as a clerk in the store of Wm. Moffatt, who in his time was the wealthiest man in all this section. He held this clerkship until 1846 when he and John Roddey, father of Captain W. L. Roddey of this city, bought the business from Mr. Moffatt, the firm being Wylie & Roddey. These gentlemen continued partners until 1851, when T. H. Moffatt bought the John Roddey interest, when the firm name became Wylie & Moffatt. In 1859 Capt. W. L. Roddey bought a third interest in the business, when the firm became Wylie, Roddey & Co. The war coming on two years later, the affairs of the company were settled and the business discontinued.

After the war had ended, in the fall of 1865, Joseph Wylie and Capt. Roddey again became partners in a business that they established at Lewisville, but in 1866 the firm decided to open a branch at Rock Hill and Capt. Roddey moved to this city to manage the business. The firm was

highly successful, both at Lewisville and Rock Hill, but they decided to make another venture, when Mr. Wylie moved to Chester and associating Capt. J. L. Agurs with themselves, they organized the firm of Wylie, Roddey & Agurs with stores at Rock Hill, Chester and Lewisville,. A very successful business followed, but about 1871, the Lewisville store was disposed of to Whitesides & Marion. About this time Capt. Roddey bought the interest of his partners in the Rock Hill house and sold his interest in the Chester business to Wylie & Agurs, a firm that became famous in its county for the splendid success it achieved. In 1885 Capt. Agurs retired and the present firm of Joseph Wylie & Co. was organized. Beginning the mercantile business when a mere boy and continuing until the day of his death, he died, as the phrase goes, with his boots on, although he had earned great wealth, but much of his fortune was donated to charitable and other laudable purposes. His gift of \$8,000 to Erskine Theological Seminary, of \$7,500 to be expended in the erection of a dormitory at Erskine College, of a munificent sum to the splendid church in this city and the donation of Wylie Park to the city government are appreciated charities well remembered by the public.

We have had intimations that warrant us in expressing the belief that when his will is read it will show greater and more extensive donations than even those mentioned above.

Mr. Wylie received only what is sometimes called “an old field education,” but he had been carefully trained in his childhood and the good seed sown then brought forth a godly man and a life whose closing years was distinguished by its good deeds.

We have been told that although some members of the family of Joseph Wylie were of the organizers of the Neely’s Creek church and more than half the congregation were his kindred, there is not now a relative of his name on the membership roll.