

David Huff, Esq.

"Life counts not hours by joys or pangs  
But just by duties done."

There is no one to whom this sentiment can more justly apply than the late David Huff, Esq. He had nearly reached three score and ten years, the term allotted to man; but numbered by "duties done" his life extends far beyond that period. The good that was in him did not die with him. It is not dead. The example of justice, mercy, courage and truth will abide, a savor of righteousness long after his day and generation. Mr. Huff was born in Somerset county, Pennsylvania, October 8, 1808. When but a child his parents, Jesse and Lydia Huff, emigrated to Pike county, Ohio. There they did not long survive, and David was left an orphan at the age of 13. Thenceforward he put away childish things, inured himself to toil and assumed the duties and cares of manhood. He was thus, in all respects, a self taught and self made man. At the age of 25 Mr. Huff was united in marriage to Hannah, daughter of the late Dr. Joseph Turner, of Rushville. In the year 1843 Mr. Huff and his family removed to this state and located on the farm six miles north of Indianapolis, where he resided until his death. He was the father of 11 children, seven of whom survive him, namely: John H. Huff, Hamilton county; J. T. Huff, Esq., Indianapolis; Andrew M. Huff, Lawrence township, Marion county; William H. Huff, Center township, Marion county; Mrs. Elizabeth L. Bowles, Miss R. G. Huff and Mrs. Josephine B. Noble, Marion county. The deceased also left six grandchildren. The near surviving relatives are three sisters: Mrs. Obadiah Harris, Marion county; Mrs. Rodabafer, Illinois, and Mrs. Mercer, Ohio, and a nephew and a niece, Prastus P. Ream and Laura Ream, children of a deceased sister, Mrs. Benjamin Ream. The last illness of Mr. Huff was sudden and severe. Never a stout man, always more or less of an invalid in fact, he had enjoyed unusually good health this winter. Several days before his death he went with his youngest daughter to what is known as "the upper place," a farm he owned a mile and a half above the one on which he resided. There he walked considerably through the woods showing his son-in-law what timber to cut down. After eating dinner he started to walk home, but was obliged to rest on the way, and upon his return was immediately seized with pneumonia. From this attack he never rallied. His sufferings were most acute, but his Christian fortitude was unshaken, and his regard for others remained the distinguishing trait of his character. When no longer able to speak plainly, his eyes dim with death, he raised his feeble hands and moved his poor, trembling lips in blessings upon his family. He expired at daybreak Wednesday, the 14th of March. His funeral took place from the Lutheran church, four miles north of town, Friday morning, and there he was buried. The services were conducted by the Rev. Amos Hanway, and were impressive to the last degree. Instead of taking a regular text, as was his intention, he was inspired by the occasion and delivered an eloquent eulogy of the deceased. In view of the large number of friends in attendance and general tribute of grief and respect, nothing could have been more appropriate. Withal, there was nothing said of which a modest citizen and humble Christian could disapprove. It was a just tribute to merit, to which a majority of the congregation could bear personal witness. In addition to his private business, Mr. Huff had been frequently called upon to act as administrator and guardian. In these relations he always proved himself the friend of the widow and fatherless. Some idea of his standing in the community may be derived from the fact that, a life-long democrat, he had often been called upon to arbitrate difficulties between his republican neighbors.

Mr. Huff never held many positions of public trust. He was twice elected esquire, and at the time of his death was postmaster at Malott Park. The office is not an important one, but his recommendation by his neighbors and appointment by ex-President Grant was a compliment to his personal worth.