

# John L. Vinson

Occupant Name: John L. Vinson

Location: Section M, Lot 2

Date of Birth: 12/11/1858

Date of Death: 3/23/1902

Date of Burial: 3/27/1902

Veteran: No

Lot Owner: John Vinson

Multiple Occupants: No

Comment:



## SAD SUICIDE.

### John L. Vinson Ends His Existence With Carbolic Acid.

Leaving A Family of Children Without Parental Care.

Neyer was this community more shocked than last Sunday evening when the startling news was spread that John L. Vinson, one of our most highly respected citizens, had committed suicide, and immediately a cloud of gloom spread over the sunlight of the first bright and cheerful day of spring.

Mr. Vinson has been the night operator for the B. & O. S. W. Ry. Co., at Vallonia since the change was made here some months ago. He worked at night and slept during the day. Sunday morning he returned home at the usual time and seemed in good spirits. After shaving himself and reading the paper and a chapter in the bible he retired to his room about 10:30 o'clock, which was the last seen of him alive. He seemed more affectionate to his children than usual during the morning, and asked them all to attend church services during the day.

About 5 o'clock in the evening his daughter, Miss Clevie, aged 17, went to the foot of the stairs to call her father to supper. She called several times and, receiving no reply, started to his room. On nearing the room she noticed the odor of carbolic acid and when she reached the door saw her father's pale face on the pillow. Fearing that something was wrong she went to her neighbor's, B. A. Wesner, and asked him to go and see what was the matter with her father. Mr. Wesner went up stairs and discovered that Mr. Vinson was dead.

There was no evidence of pain or straggle whatever. He had gone to bed and his position looked as if he had been resting peacefully. Beside him under the bed covers was an empty carbolic acid bottle, which alone told the awful tale of the manner in which he ended his life. In one of his pockets another bottle full of the deadly acid was found.

Not a line was found which would explain why he committed such a rash act. An envelope addressed to his daughter Clevie was found, but it only contained this check for his month's wages, properly indorsed. A few quotations from the bible were found in his bible, but they had evidently been written some time, and whether they had any bearing on his case is only a matter of conjecture.

Why he took his life will quite likely never be known. He has seemed somewhat despondent since the death of his wife last fall. He also worried much over the fact that he was compelled to be away from his children at night. It was understood that he had day work offered him in Ohio, but he did not seem to want to leave here.

He evidently had the act under contemplation for some time, for the acid was purchased of Chas. Brock some time in February. In conversation with different persons recently he also seemed disheartened.

The occurrence is extremely sad from the fact that he leaves a family of children, the youngest a little girl only seven years old, to tread the dangerous path of life without the tender care and guidance of father or mother.

Mr. Vinson was a man of a high moral character and had the confidence and esteem of a large circle of acquaintances in this county, having followed his occupation as an operator at this place, Vallonia and Medora for about fifteen years past. He was an earnest christian and took an especial interest in temperance work.

John L. Vinson was born at Elrod, Ripley county, Ind., December 11, 1858; and departed this life at Browns-town, Ind., March 23, 1902; aged 43 years, 3 months and 12 days.

The father and mother of the departed are both dead. Of his parent's family there remains a sister, a half-sister and a brother. The brother

when last heard from was in Texas and is supposed to be living.

The subject of this sketch was united in marriage to Flora A. Hamilton, of Diltsboro, Ind., March 2, 1879. To this union were born five children: Grace (now Mrs. Carl Reinhold), Clevie, Claud, Nellie (who died in infancy), and Mamie.

He first came to Vallonia, Ind., in April of 1887, and from there to Browns-town in March of 1900.

With his wife he was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church at Vallonia, Ind., until about six years ago, when he transferred his membership to the Independent Methodist church at Harrison, Tenn., a church which is made up strictly of active Prohibitionists.

The departed was a charter member of the Vallonia Lodge of Knights of Pythias, and had been a member of the Order of Railroad Telegraphers for about seven years.

The funeral services were held at the M. E. church, Tuesday afternoon, March 25, 1902, at 2:00 o'clock, under the auspices of the Vallonia Lodge, No. 433, K. of P., Rev. G. C. Honard officiating, after which the remains were laid to rest in Fairview cemetery.

The grief-stricken children have the sincere and heartfelt sympathy of a host of friends in their sad affliction.

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