

## **JOHN W. WELCH DIED AT MONTEREY SATURDAY**

John Wesley Welch

b. 21 February 1859, TN – d. 20 September 1930, Putnam Co., TN

Buried: Welch Memorial Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN

Father: **Esq. Nathan Welch** (1833-1905)

Mother: **Martha J. Lee** (1837-1899)

Wife: **Julia Ann (Ford) Welch**

b. 26 March 1857, Putnam Co., TN – d. 22 May 1934, Putnam Co., TN

Buried: Welch Memorial Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN

Father: **Benjamin Abraham Ford** (1821-1890)

Mother: **Nancy Womack** (1819-1896)

Putnam County Herald Cookeville, TN: 25 September 1930

<http://ww.ajlambert.com>

Was Progressive Citizen and Very Successful Business Man:

John W. Welch, one of Putnam County's best known citizen and business man, died Saturday evening at his home in Monterey.

He had been confined to his home by illness for several weeks, and for several days prior to his death the seriousness of his illness was realized by his family and friends.

His death marks the passing of one of the strongest characters and most successful business men our mountain section has produced.

He was seventy-one years old and was a son of Esq. Nathan Welch, a well known pioneer citizen of the 14<sup>th</sup> Civil District of this County.

John W. Welch was born and reared within two miles of the present town of Monterey. Ever since the beginning of Monterey, with the building of the old Nashville and Knoxville railroad to that point in 1893, he had been one of the leading citizens and business men of that splendid town. Since his young manhood he had been extensively engaged in the timber, lumber, real estate and manufacturing business, and in these lines he was one of the most prominent and successful business men of this section of the state. He was also a large land owner and was always interested in farming and stock growing. From its organization several years ago until his death, he had served as president of the Union Bank and Trust Company of Monterey. During the more active period of his life he was interested in many other business enterprises. He was a man of untiring energy and rare business judgment.

He was one of the founders of Monterey and throughout its entire existence he has been one of its most public spirited and progressive citizens and leaders. He was always deeply interested in every movement of Monterey and his native section.

The town of Monterey was laid out and established in April 1893, by the Cumberland Mountain Coal Company, consisting of John H. Onstott, of Guthrie, OK, J. Edd Jones, of Springfield, M., and J. H. Ray, W. B. Ray and John W. Welch of that section, of these five founders and pioneer promoters and citizens of Monterey, the death of John W. Welch leaves only one survivor, W. B. Ray.

John W. Welch had served as mayor of Monterey and for many years as a member of its school board. For many years he served as President of the Monterey Realty Company, he was also president of the Bill's Branch Coal Company.

He was an active and devoted member of the Nazarene Church of Monterey, of which congregation his son, Rev. A. P. Welch has served as pastor for about twenty-five years.

The splendid stone church building of this congregation in Monterey, one of the most beautiful, commodious, and valuable church edifices of this section of the state, was made possible in a large measure, by the interest and support of John W. Welch, who was Treasurer of its building committee.

He was a member of the Odd Fellows and Knights of Pythias fraternities.

In August 1878, before he was twenty years old, he married Miss Julia Ford, a daughter of Capt. Abraham Ford, a prominent pioneer citizen, Confederate soldier and Baptist minister of this County. Ten children were born in this union, five of whom survive their father.

The deceased is survived by his wife and the following children, Gen. N. Welch, Rev. Abraham Poteet Welch, Charles Welch, Mrs. Robert Andrew (Ova Ellen) McClain, and Mrs. Fred L. (Nancy) Gill, also by many other relatives in Monterey and Putnam County. Funeral services were conducted Monday afternoon at the Monterey Nazarene Church. The large church building was crowded to its full capacity with the relatives and friends of the deceased and many were unable to get into the building.

Following the funeral services at the church, the remains were laid to rest in the Monterey Cemetery.

By the death of John W. Welch, Monterey and Putnam County loses one of the most useful and public spirited citizens and most successful business men. He was a man of splendid native ability. Above all he was an honorable, upright man. He was a kindhearted, charitable, sympathetic man. He was a friend to the poor and the needy. A large employer of labor, he was always kind and sympathetic in his relations with his employees. They always liked him and spoke kindly of him.

His friends and associates could not realize that he was 71 years old. Until his recent illness he was wonderfully well preserved and appeared to be much younger than he really was, and he always kept his spirit young.

He greatly desired to recover his health, but he approached death with Christian resignation, and almost his last audible words, as he was passing away, were "Thy will be done."

We extend our sincere sympathy to the sorrowing family who mourn the departure of a devoted husband and father, and we are also deeply impressed with a sense of the loss which Monterey and Putnam County have sustained. One of our strong men has fallen. His place can hardly be supplied. His life and character would be a source of encouragement and inspiration to every ambitious boy of our mountain section.

#### **Welch Memorial Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN:**

**Robert Andrew McClain**, b. 18 September 1887, Putnam Co., TN – d. 6 October 1979, Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN, md **Ova (Welch) McClain**, b. 10 February 1894 – d. 1 January 1971, d/o **John Wesley Welch** (1859-1930) & **Julia Ann Ford** (1857-1934). Robert Andrew McClain, s/o **Lemuel Rux McClain** (1844-1936) & **Sarah Emma "Emily" Burton** (1850-1910).

\*Read more about the History of Putnam Co., TN and surrounding areas at: <http://www.ajlambert.com>