

Bethany Republican-Clipper Dec 28, 1960

Blows Struck in Brawl Over Dogs: Elderly Man Dies

Autopsy Determines Death of W. A. Fitzpatrick, Hatfield, Caused by heart Attack from Overexertion

Wilford Arthur Fitzpatrick of Hatfield died at about 9:30 o'clock Friday morning at the Thompson Oil Co. service station at Hatfield following an argument with another man that developed into a fight over the shooting of dogs. Mr Fitzpatrick was 79 years old.

Ralph Weaver Keech, 58, who lives north of Hatfield, had been visiting in the station when Mr Fitzpatrick entered. Keech, who is considered a dog lover and owns 17 of the animals, remarked to Mr Fitzpatrick that he "hadn't done a good job on Dee Pottorff's dog", according to the version related to Sheriff Melvin Smith. Pottorff and Keech are neighbors.

Mr Fitzpatrick claimed he "did not shoot the dog", as the story was told to the sheriff, and each man called the other a liar. A scuffle followed, with blows being struck.

The two men were separated by Robert Parsons, who was in the repair department of the station working on a car. Mr Fitzpatrick was helped to a chair to rest, dying a short time later.

Keech told Sheriff Smith that there had been hard feelings between the two "because Fitzpatrick had been shooting some of my dogs."

Dr E. L. Wood, Harrison county Coroner, aided the sheriff in the investigation at the scene.

Dr J. E. Johnson, a pathologist from Bethany Hospital, Kansas City, Kansas, came Saturday to conduct an autopsy. He determined the death of Mr Fitzpatrick was caused by a heart attack due to overexertion.

Keech is charged with second degree murder. He was held in the county jail until Tuesday evening when he furnished bond of \$2,599. His preliminary hearing has been set for Jan. 6.

Mr Fitzpatrick is survived by his wife, Mrs Bertie Fitzpatrick of the home; a daughter, Mrs Lois Percell of Hatfield; a son, Theodore Fitzpatrick of Des Moines, Iowa; a sister, Mrs Theodore French of Madison, Kan.; and a brother, George Fitzpatrick of Lincoln, Missouri.

Funeral services were Monday afternoon at the Haas chapel with Dolphus Holcomb officiating. Burial was in Sharon cemetery. Pallbearers were Ray Todd, Richard Wooderson, Lee Parman, Robert Parsons, Duane Foltz, Ray Fitzpatrick, Mike Fitzpatrick and Terry Fitzpatrick.

Obituary: Bethany Republican-Clipper Jan 11, 1961

Wilford Arthur Fitzpatrick was born Oct 22, 1881 in Harrison county, Missouri, and passed away Dec 23, 1960 at the age of 79 years, two months and two days, at Hatfield, Missouri.

On Feb 1, 1903 he was united in marriage to Bertie Blanche Wooderson. To this union two children were born: Herschel Theadore of Des Moines, Iowa and Lois Delaine (Mrs Austin Percell) of Hatfield, Missouri.

Surviving are his wife, Bertie Blanche, the son and daughter, one brother, George Fitzpatrick of Lincoln, Mo., and one sister, Mrs Theodore French of Fort Collins, Colorado; also several grandchildren, great-grandchildren, neices and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his father and mother, Edward and Louisa Fitzpatrick; and one brother, Henry.

He was converted to Christ during a gospel meeting at Leon, Iowa and was baptized on Oct 20, 1953 in the pond at his farm home.

He retired from active farming in 1958, and made his home on a small acreage in Hatfield, Missouri.

He was laid to rest in the family plot at Sharon cemetery.