

SUCCUMBS



Rev. Aaron Sherman Watkins, above, former Lima pastor and several times Prohibition party candidate for president, vice-president and governor, died Sunday at his home in Rushsylvania. He had been in turn a teacher, lawyer and minister.

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WIDELY KNOWN DRY HEAD DIES

Rev. Aaron S. Watkins Once
Held Pastorate Of
Lima Church

A former Lima pastor and twice a presidential candidate, Rev. Aaron S. Watkins, 77, died Sunday at his home in Rushsylvania where he had lived in retirement after a career as a teacher, lawyer and minister.

He was an ardent and militant champion of the cause of prohibition and carried the Prohibition party's banner on two occasions as a candidate for governor, twice as its presidential candidate and twice in seeking the vice presidency.

Watkins was born Nov. 29, 1863, on a farm near Rushsylvania, in Logan-co, the youngest of 10 children. He was graduated from Ohio Northern university, Ada, in 1886, with the bachelor of science degree, later receiving master of science and doctor of humane letters degrees there. He taught four years at Northern, and later was president of Asbury college at Wilmore, Ky. Asbury conferred upon him the degree of doctor of divinity, and the doctor of laws degree was given him by Taylor university, at Upland, Indiana.

He was admitted to the Ohio bar in 1889, taught public school, from 1890 to 1893, when he entered the ministry and was ordained in 1895. He held pastorates in Ottawa, Edgerton, Delta and North Baltimore before going back into educational work. He was at Ohio Northern from 1905 to 1909, serving the last two years as vice president of the college.

He was married Nov. 8, 1890 to Emma L. Davis, of Middleburg, and there was one son, Willard Merrill, who survive.

From 1910 to 1915 he was a lecturer, after which he served a pastorate at Van Wert. Later he had

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churches at Germantown and Columbus Grove, serving as English instructor of Miami Military Institute during his Germantown tenure.

He ultimately became pastor of the Wesley Methodist church of Lima in 1928 and served two years.

During nearly a half century of activity in the prohibition movement, Rev. Watkins became acquainted with numerous prominent dry leaders. He spoke from the same platform with Carrie Nation, militant dry crusader, and once many years ago debated the dry question with Clarence Darrow.

In 1920 he was the party's candidate for President against two other Ohioans, Warren G. Harding and James M. Cox. Again in 1924 the party named him its presidential candidate. He had sought the vice presidency in 1908 and again in 1912 under the same banner.

The party put him forward as its gubernatorial candidate in 1905 and he again was nominated in 1908, but withdrew the latter year to accept the vice presidential nomination.

In 1932, at the age of 68, he was again asked to run for governor on the Prohibition ticket.

Funeral services will be held at the Rushsylvania Methodist church at 2 p. m. Tuesday.