

C. F. KING DIES WHILE PARDON HANGS FIRE



CARDENIO F. KING,
From One of His Latest Photographs.

FINAL ATTACK IS SUDDEN FAMILY IS WITH HIM AT END.

CLOSE AT STATE FARM, BRIDGEWATER,

PICTURESQUE CAREER THAT LED TO CONVICT'S CELL

Bridgewater, July 21. — A spectacular career was ended under pathetic circumstances today when Cardenio F. King, once widely known as a financier and newspaper publisher of Boston, died a convict at the State Farm here in the very hour that his friends, aware of the approach of death, were making desperate efforts to obtain a pardon for him.

Only a legal technicality stood in the way of making King's last hours those of a free man. Word that King's condition was hopeless was sent to Gov. Foss at Boston this morning and soon afterwards Mrs. King and their sons, who were at the bedside of the dying man, received the welcome message that the Executive would intervene.

A few hours later a telephone call from the State House reported that the Governor had canvassed the members of his Council by telephone and that seven of the eight had consented to immediate clemency.

King, who knew of the efforts in his behalf, brightened perceptibly at the news. He was not told of the word that followed quickly. Atty. Gen. Swift having been consulted by the Governor, gave the opinion that a pardon could not be legally granted by telephone. Still later, a telegram brought the assurance that a pardon would be given at 10 o'clock tomorrow morning when the Council was called to convene. Dr. Emerson of the State Farm hurried to the hospital with the news. When he had returned to his office King was dead.

His death was expected from 7 a. m. when Dr. E. B. Emerson, the medical director, was summoned to his bedside. Late last night there appeared to be an intestinal obstruction. Dr. Emerson says:

"It was a deplorable complication of hernia of the character of the one which Mr. King was suffering with. It was a condition which was inoperable for

years back."

Dr. Emerson, assisted by Dr. B. B. Kasson of the prison side, administered to the patient's comfort and immediately communicated with his wife, Mrs. Mollie King of 124 Winthrop st, Winthrop.

She arrived at 8 o'clock accompanied by her sons, Henry C., Ralph M. and Frank D. of Winthrop. Another son, C. F. Jr. of Springfield arrived early this afternoon just before his father's death. Friends of the family, Dr. and Mrs. G. Stedman of Bridgewater, were also present when the end came.

Before 7 a. m. Dr. Lincoln Davis and Dr. E. H. Risley of the Massachusetts General Hospital arrived, an after a consultation on the case declared it inadvisable to operate. They agreed with the diagnosis of this very unique and serious hernia case, made by the late Dr. Maurice H. Richardson, who stated the treatment Dr. Emerson had given was the best possible. King it is stated, was opposed to an operation, and his wife and sons were willing to leave the settlement of the matter to the physicians' judgement. When the family arrived they went immediately to the large conner room in the prison hospital where he was receiving treatment.

Supt. Blackstone communicated as soon as possible with the State House, urging immediate action, that King might die as a pardoned or even as a paroled man.

During the day there was a flood of telephonic inquiries for King's condition. Friends of the former broker in many parts of the State phoned the State Farm, and one of the sons passed much of the day in the telephone booth answering these inquiries. Death came almost suddenly at 3:55.

Arrangements were made to have the body cared for by a local undertaker and it was taken to Boston on the 6:18 train. The family accompanied the body on the train.

King was known as a patient sufferer and bore up nobly, despite his terrible physical affliction as well as the anguish of being confined.

The late Dr. Richardson predicted that just such a condition as came today might suddenly end his life. King realized it, too. In an interview last winter, King spoke of the chances of a sudden death under circumstances similar to those of today.

King was convicted of obtaining \$22,000 under false pretences from persons who had entrusted him with funds for investment. He was sentenced to a

term of from 10 to 14 years in January, 1906 and began to serve his sentence in the State Prison at Charleston.

In September, 1911, he became seriously ill and was removed to the State Farm here.

A native of North Carolina, Cardenio Flavius King began his financial operations in Boston in 1904. Through extensive and unique advertising, he attracted many investors to his office and also did a big business by mail.

Later he opened even more lavish offices in New York, and early in 1907 he began publication of the Boston Daily Tribune. The New York offices proved unprofitable, and the paper was discontinued after it had been run for several months at a loss.

Early in 1903, King's customers began to complain that listed stocks for which they had sent him money had not been delivered. A little later it was announced that King had placed all his property and affairs in the hands of two trustees.

A meeting of creditors followed, King was declared a bankrupt, and an investigation by the trustee in bankruptcy showed liabilities of nearly \$300,000 and assets less than \$14,000.

A warrant for King's arrest was issued, but the financier had disappeared. He was traced to New York, London, Paris and finally to Colombo, Ceylon. He returned to Boston and surrendered himself at Police Headquarters June 12, 1908. His trial began Dec. 14, and on Dec 29 he was convicted in 57 of 81 counts charging larceny and embezzlement.

Two weeks after his conviction King was sentenced by Judge Schofield to hard labor in the State Prison. The sentence followed a most dramatic recital, in which King reviewed his life, his flight from Boston and his travels in Europe and Asia.

He declared that he was innocent of any wrong intent in any of his acts. Later he made repeated attempts to obtain a pardon.

Would Extend Pardon.

The members of the Executive Council were communicated with by telephone and telegraph yesterday by Gov. Foss for the purpose of granting an immediate pardon to Cardenio F. King. Six of the eight members, with Lieut. Gov. Walch, were reached and they were unanimous in extending clemency.

The two who could not be located were Councilors McGregor and Frothingham, but as Mr. McGregor on Feb. 18 last voted with Lieut. Gov. Walch and Councilors Ham and Goetting for a pardon, it was taken for granted that he was now favorable. Councilor Frothingham, although opposed to the previous petition, was understood to have been in favor yesterday.

After the papers had been prepared however, and Gov. Foss stood ready to affix his signature, expressed his opinion that the pardon secured by telephone was unconstitutional; that the constitution required the assets of individual members.

Executive Sec. Hamlin thereupon notified the councilors that a special meeting would be held at ten Monday morning for the purpose of formally pardoning King, but when the news of his death was received he immediately notified them that there would be no meeting today.

Sunday night Gov. Foss received word from Supt. Hollis M. Blackstone of the State Farm that the prisoner was very near death's door. Early yesterday at the Governor's earnest request, Drs. Edward Hammond Risley of the Massachusetts General Hospital went to the State Farm and with Dr. Emerson of the institution made an examination.

They found that owing to King's weight no operation was possible with any degree of safety, as he weighed about 270 pounds. Dr. Davis immediately returned to the State House and reported to Gov. Foss that it would be impossible to operate and that King could not last much longer, probably not 24 hours.

Awaits Brothers Coming.

The arrangements for the funeral of Cardenio F. King will probably not be completed until tomorrow afternoon or evening, when his brothers from Richmond, Va., and Danville, who have been notified of his death will arrive at the home of Mrs. King here.

The body was removed to Boston from the State Farm at Bridgewater this evening and will be taken to Winthrop tomorrow.

Picturesque Career.

The rise and fall of Cardenio F. King, the financial agent and broker, occurred during a comparatively short span of years. His activities in business life really ended Jan. 13, 1909, when, after a trial on a larceny charge in the Superior Criminal Court in his city, he was convicted in 27 counts and sentenced to State Prison for a term of not more than 14 years nor less than 10 years, the first 24 hours being in solitary confinement.

Last year a determined attempt to secure a pardon for King was made. He was reported as being in very bad condition physically, and was removed from the prison to the State Hospital. The Governor's council, however refused to grant a pardon.

For a number of years up to February, 1907, King was widely known in financial circles and to the public generally as a financial agent and broker. He had large suites of offices in Boston and New York. He advertised extensively the stocks of various corporations and for a number of years did a large business.

At one time it was said King could write his check for \$500,000 in cold cash and his unencumbered realty holding represented as much more. There were two costly automobiles in his garage and a large retinue of servants at the family residence, 60 Powell st, Brookline. In his library were many rare and costly editions.

Suddenly came financial difficulties and King left Boston for four months, during which time he traveled more than 30,000 miles. He returned to this city to surrender to the police.

King was born upon a farm in Rockingham County, North Carolina, in 1867. His people were not rich, and there were nine children, two younger and six older than Cardenio. He was 7 years old when his father died, and the reduced circumstances of the family were reduced still further by rascally executor, who robbed the poor estate and fled. Cardenio lived with his grandfather until he was 12 years old, meantime attending a country school. Then he became a book agent and wandered over the State selling the "Life of Christ," "Shakspeare" and "The World's Wonders."

At the age of 15 he was employed by the Southern Methodist Publishing Company of Nashville to sell its publications.

He continued in this employe until he was 17, when he became associated with a newspaper published at Charlotte, N. C. Later he became a general newspaper correspondent, representing a long string of papers in the South, East and West and then was connected for five years with the Atlanta Journal.

The next three years he spent on the staff of the St. Louis Republic, coming from there in 1897 to join a Boston evening newspaper.

Two years later he became impatient at being on the pay rolls of other men and resolved to start a pay roll of his own. He thereupon formed the Grand Eastern Newspaper League, and advertising agency.

The prosecution of the work of this agency would take him over a large part of the country, especially the West, so on the threshold of the enterprise he secured a sumptuous private car, taking along from six to ten assistants.

The project proved to be an unexampled success. In his private car, King and his staff covered 26,000 miles in nine months. He returned to Boston with money in his pocket, and sold car at a price which reduced his nine months traveling expenses to ab-

PEOPLE OF ALAMANCE COUNTY KEEP YOUR EYES

UPON THE BELL TELEPHONE & TELEGRAPH CO. WHO WORK UPON THE BASIS OF GETTING THE CONFIDENCE OF THE PEOPLE AND AFTER THIS PUT UP RATES AND GIVE TERRIBLE SERVICE.

People of Alamance County did you know that the Bell Telephone Co. has gone into the Telegraph business and they own practically the Western Union Telegraph Co. and they combine by the use of the phones and the telegraph to try to put such Companies as the Postal-Telegraph Cable Co. out of business because this Company offers them the Bell Company and the Western Union honest Competition.

We have been offered by the Bell people great relief from our present poor service if we will give them eighteen months in which to install an up-to-date system such as we should have had in operation in this county at least five years ago, but they do not tell you that during these eighteen months that they have for installing the new system that they propose to give you just the same poor service that they have been giving.

During the days that Mr. McAdoo owned our system and for a year or two after the Bell Telephone Co. took over our County system of phone we the people of Alamance County could point with pride to our most excellent telephone service. Now people did you know that the present equipments is at least 50 per cent better than it was in those days, but if you complain now of the very poor service that we are having, you will at once get the answer that the poor service is due to the present poor equipment.

People did you know that the only excuse for poorer service now, than we had in the days referred to above is due to the fact that the system has about twice as many phones now as then but why should this effect the service when they have enough extra help to make up for this.

We tell you people that there is no reason why the phone service of our county should be as poor as it is, and it would not be if you would be active and take your complaints to the Corporation Commission if they do not give you good service deduct for poor service from your invoice at the end of the month and have proof that deduction is reasonable on account of poor service and the people and the courts will sustain you in getting what is justly due you.

The Bell Telephone Co. in their contract states that they will now raise the rate on the business phone 50c as they have only something over 500 phones but as soon as they get 750 phones they will have to raise the rate on the individual phones as well, now you see people they claim that an increase in their output will increase their expenses and cause you to have to pay higher rates this might do to tell people from the FREE STATE but it will not do to tell this to people of intelligence and expect them to believe it.

Let every man woman and child in Alamance County keep on the alert and see that the Bell Telephone & Telegraph Co. give them the proper service during the next eighteen months especially and after the new system comes in let us see that we get the very best of service.

out \$500.

In February, 1901, King wound up the affairs of the Great Eastern Newspaper League and looked for other field to conquer. It occurred to him that since he had made a success of advertising others he might make a success of advertising himself.

The opportunity presented itself fourthwith for it was while in this mood that the proprietors which afterward became the basis of the King-Crother Corporation came to his attention.

In the autumn of 1901 he organized the corporation. The properties were supposed to consist of oil lands, 100 square miles in all, located in Southwestern Texas. Other properties in other sections of the country are claimed to have been added as the years went on, until in the early part of 1907 the advertisements about King-Crother read like tales from the "Arabian Nights."

The stock sold like hot cakes. The price mounted by leaps and bounds until it reached \$100 a share and more. If King's claims could be believed. At all events, his office was filled with customers every day, and thousands upon thousands of dollars were taken in exchange for stock in the company.

Then came the reckoning. The people of Texas chased the corporation out of their State and the stock fell to \$2 a share. King reorganized the company and proceeded to sell more stock to his old customers. The customers had some more money and they gave it to King in exchange for more King-Crother.

A report given publicly by men who examined his books stated that from June 1, 1905, to Feb. 29, 1908, King had sold through his office \$2,798,787 in securities, on which his commissions had amounted to \$597,370, and that during

three years, his income had been more than \$200,000 a year.

For a number of years before called King, had issued a paper he called King's Financial Bulletin in which he gave his views of the financial and investment situation, expressed opinions of certain men and measures and advocated the purchase of such stocks as he was interested in. On Jan. 1, 1907, he started the Boston Daily Tribune, announcing that it was to be devoted to financial matters principally.

The Tribune was discontinued on Oct. 25, 1907, after having been in existence 297 days. It was stated afterward that the loss on the newspaper was one of the immediate causes of King's suspension of business on Feb. 20, 1908, when he signed documents naming Henry D. Yeaton and Stephen A. Hopkins as trustees of his property.

King then went to New York for a short time, then sailed for Southampton, went to London where he remained a week, then proceeded to Paris. Later he came back to London and took another ship, which carried him to Naples, Port Said and finally to Colombo, Ceylon.

King returned to Boston on the morning of June 12, 1908, driving from the South Station to Police Headquarters surrendered himself under the indictment charging larceny which had been found against him during his absence. King was locked up in Charleston Jail for several hours that evening, but secured bondsmen for \$25,000 and was released.

Upon his return from Ceylon Mr. King gave to the newspapers a long statement in which he asserted that he never had knowingly done a wrong to any one and that the only reason he left the country was because he was

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