

Dr. Merritt Hill

April 4, 1901 – August 31, 1938

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C. A. Hill Dies at Ronceverte

Two deaths in the well known C. A. Hill family on the same day. The venerable C. A. Hill, one of the early C. and O. telegraph operators and agents, who had been stationed at Nuttallburg for a long time prior to his retirement and removal to Ronceverte, died at his home there Wednesday morning, August 31st, from the infirmities due to old age. Mr. Hill was one of the best known men in Fayette county and in the old days was a frequent contributor to the papers under the pen name of "Cahill."

On the same day Mr. Hill's son, Dr. Merritt M. Hill, of Elverton, was found lying on his porch in an unconscious condition by neighbors. First aid was administered, but he died in a short time without regaining consciousness.

Squire R. C. Godsey, of Fayetteville, empannelled a coroner's jury and the verdict was that he had died from the effects of a self-administered drug. While the jury did not term it a case of suicide, it is generally believed it was such since Dr. Hill had the previous day designated his mother as beneficiary of his insurance policies, changing from his wife who was found dead in her home in Elverton on July 21.

At the time of Mrs. Hill's death some peculiar circumstances are said to have surrounded the case, and after the inquest conducted by Squire Godsey, an autopsy was held. The stomach of Mrs. Hill was sent to the Department of Public Safety in Charleston for a chemical analysis, but no report on it has yet been made.

Tragedy has stalked the Hill family for several years. Some 20 years ago a son of Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Hill, Eustace Hill, was brutally murdered at Glen Jean, being hacked to death with a planer bit.

A local young man was tried for the murder but was acquitted. Frequently since that time C. A. Hill had published notices of a substantial reward for the apprehension of the murderer.

Another son, J. C. Hill, who lived at Hilltop, died a few years ago after a very short illness of pneumonia.

Joint funeral services were held Saturday morning in Ronceverte for Charles Hill and Dr. M. M. Hill, 38 years old, his son, who died Wednesday night at his home in Elverton, Fayette county.

Services were held at the Hill residence at Ronceverte and burial was in Spring Hill cemetery in Charleston.