

# GRAND OLD MAN DEAD

**End Comes to Judge Thornton at Shelbyville**

## PEACEFULLY PASSED AWAY

**From This Life to That Beyond  
After Illness of Some Time.  
—Historic Figure.**

Shelbyville, Ill., September 10.—After an illness of three weeks, caused by infirmities incident to old age, that sturdy old oak, the pioneer of pioneers of this section, Judge Anthony Thornton, of this city, died at his home here as the clock was striking the hour of 12 today.

### NATIVE OF KENTUCKY

Anthony Thornton was born on a farm, six miles east of Paris, Bourbon county, Kentucky, November 9, 1814, which made him 90 years of age at death. His parents died when he was five years old and he was taken into the home of his grandfather, a patriot who served in the Virginia militia as a colonel with a commission from Patrick Henry.

In 1836 Judge Thornton started from Kentucky to Missouri, but the colony of Kentuckians at Shelbyville lured him there and he became a resident. He was admitted to the bar at Vandalia the then capital of Illinois and there first met Lincoln, with whom he held a debate in Shelbyville in 1856, the judge being a sturdy democrat after 1856, but a whig before that time.

Governor Carlin appointed him major in the Mexican war, but the judge did not get a taste of actual warfare.

In 1863 he was made the agent of Shelby county to sell bonds to the amount of \$100,000 to pay bounty to men drafted in the war. He was not required to give bond.

## HELD MANY OFFICES

He was elected to the legislature in 1850, the year that saw the Illinois Central chartered, and to congress in 1864, serving in that body with Hayes, Garfield, Conkling and Blaine. In 1870 he was elected to the supreme bench of Illinois. He was also a member of one of the earlier constitutional conventions. He organized the first bar association of Illinois and served as its president.

## WAS OLDEST ELK

Judge Thornton was the oldest Elk in the world, being initiated into the order by the Mattoon lodge when it instituted the Shelbyville lodge about a year ago.

He was only ill three weeks and practiced in the courts up to the very first day of his illness.