

Stephen James Routon

Born: February 28, 1874

Died: October 1, 1958

Buried: Maplewood Cemetery

(FROM NEWSPAPER ARTICLE)

Stephen James Routon DIES;

FORMER STATE SENATOR

Stephen James Routon, Sr., a respected member of a pioneer Henry County family, died yesterday afternoon at his home on Dunlap Street.

He was 84.

He was the son of the late Stephen Palmer Routon and Mary Catherine Haymes, settlers of the Routon community. Mr. Routon was a member of First Baptist Church and had been a Baptist for over 60 years.

He attended Bethel College in McKenzie and was a graduate of Rome University in Rome, Georgia. After teaching school for several years in Georgia and Florida, he returned to Paris where he entered the real estate business.

He served one term in the Tennessee Senate, and during this time and for a number of years after he was active in securing pensions for Confederate veterans. He served in an honorary position in

World War I, assisting draftees and enlistees secure necessary data and complete questionnaires.

Last year, he appeared on a national television broadcast when his wife,

widely known as “Miss Pearl” to the host of people the couple has befriended, was the subject of the program, “This is Your Life.”

Funeral services will be held at 2:00 Friday afternoon at Milligan & Ridgeway Funeral Home, where the body will remain until time for the services. The Rev. O. E. Turner will officiate, and burial will be in Maplewood Cemetery.

He leaves his wife, the former Pearl Sanders, a florist, who has been active for many years in professional and political fields, one daughter, Mrs. Ray B. Burton of Knoxville; three sons, Stephen James Routon, Jr., and Joseph Routon of Paris, and William S. Routon of Baltimore, Maryland; and 15 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

If one were asked to name the most distinguishing characteristic of S. J. Routon, who passed away peacefully Wednesday afternoon at the age of 84, it would be his perpetual optimism.

This trait of character extended into every avenue of his life and was responsible for his reactions to changes which have taken place in our nation and the world during the past thirty years.

As real estate dealer following World War One, he was sold on the future development of Paris and Henry County. He liked to talk about “booms”, such as those which took place in Florida and at Muscle Shoals, Alabama, and he wanted to see our community grow more substantially.

He was a sick man for a long, long time before his death but he seldom complained. Even during his last visits to the downtown section, he expressed optimism over the future and he had confidence that our leaders will be able to keep us out of war.

Mr. Routon was a good citizen, husband, and father.
We offer our sympathy to his good wife, "Miss Pearl," and to his fine family.