

# Funeral Of Oliver Park

Beautiful Services Are Held At The Home Here on Saturday Afternoon.

## MARK CLOSE OF A LONG AND USEFUL LIFE.

Rev. E. M. Vittum, a Long Time Friend is Speaker—Elks Conduct Services at the Grave.

Funeral services for O. W. Park from the home on Main street Saturday afternoon were largely attended by the friends who wished to honor the memory of a Christian gentleman and a long time resident of this community. Though Mr. Park had lived a retired life for many years by reason of the infirmities which had come upon him with advancing years he has ever been held in friendly remembrance by those who knew him in the days of his active and helpful life.

Rev. E. M. Vittum, a friend of many years, conducted the simple but impressive services. Dr. Vittum found Mr. Park here when he came to assume the pastorate of the Congregational church many years ago and always found in him a man devoted to the church and willing to give freely of his money, his time and his strength to further good things in the community.

The services opened with the reading by Dr. Vittum of three hymns which Mr. Park had loved all his long life and which he and Mrs. Park had often sung together in their home. One of them, "Hark the Song of Jubilee," they had sung together on their golden wedding anniversary almost three years ago. After the reading of each hymn the melody was played on the piano by Mrs. D. M. Cox. In addition to the one already mentioned, the hymns were: "Oh, the Sunshine" and "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name."

Dr. Vittum opened his remarks with an eloquent prayer and then spoke in appreciative and comforting words of his long time friend, giving a review of his long and worthy life from his boyhood days, when he found himself the main support of his widowed mother and his brothers and sisters, for whom he provided by going to sea and arranging that the bulk of his salary should be sent to them. It was during this period of his life that he suffered shipwreck and escaped after a dramatic struggle with the waves. Dr. Vittum spoke of the long years of friendly association with Mr. Park in this community and paid fitting tribute to his many fine qualities as a man and a Christian.

The pall bearers were all members of the Elks lodge of which Mr. Park had been an interested and helpful member. They were Howard Edwards, Glenn Anderson, Ralph Sherman, Howard Hyde, Ed Speth and Clayton Phelps. The Elks performed their impressive ritual at the grave.

The house was filled with the many and beautiful floral tributes which came from friends and which were deeply appreciated by the family. Mr. Park's son Hubbard, who could not reach Grinnell from his home in California, sent a beautiful basket of chrysanthemums and roses. A large tripod bearing an everlasting wreath adorned with chrysanthemums and other flowers, came from Mr. Park's sister, Mrs. Amy Black and his nephew, Oliver Park Black and wife of Boston; and a cousin, A. W. Carver and wife, who came from Muscatine, also brought a beautiful floral tribute.

Present from out of town at the services were the oldest daughter, Mrs. J. L. Carpenter, her husband and four children, David, a sophomore at Iowa State College at Ames, Winslow, Don and Ruth, Mrs. J. D. Carpenter, Miss Sarah Carpenter, Mr. and Mrs. John Darr, Mr. and Mrs. I. J. Baltisberger and Mr. and Mrs. Glen Teraberry, all of Malcom; Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Carver of Muscatine, and Mrs. Arthur Bartlett of Chicago.

Oliver Winslow Park was born in Searsport Harbor, Maine, June 7, 1849, the son of Captain and Mrs. Oliver Crary Park. His parents were first cousins, his mother's maiden name having been Catherine Elizabeth Park, and both came of an illustrious ancestry. Mr. Park was a direct great grandson of Captain John Park, Revolutionary War hero and a direct descendant of Robert Treat, who for forty years was deputy or governor of Connecticut in the early Colonial days. Robert Treat was governor at the time of the famous Charter Oak episode which has come down in history and in fact the name of his father, Richard, is one of those which appears in the original charter which was so artistically concealed at that time. Mr. Park's great grand father, Griffin was a direct descendant of Elder William Brewster who came in the Mayflower. Mrs. Park was also descended from Richard Treat through his daughter Honor Treat.

Oliver's mother died when he was fifteen years old and in order to help support the family, as explained above, he followed the sea for eight years, this being the most natural occupation for a Maine boy at that time. At the age of 23, on June 2, 1872, he came to this community and after a hospitable reception in the little settlement of Grinnell settled on a farm in the Chester community which he farmed for some time. Later he took a claim in Franklin county, Nebraska.

Mr. Park was married January 19, 1878, at Kearney, Neb., to Carrie Ruth Beaton, the ceremony being performed by Rev. Mr. Fifield, himself an early resident for a short time of Grinnell and by way of a honeymoon tour they enjoyed a fifty mile ride in a lumber wagon from the ceremonies to the claim.

After living for some time in Nebraska, Mr. and Mrs. Park moved back to Poweshiek county to be near Mrs. Park's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Beaton, and made their home for forty years on the Beaton farm three miles northwest of Grinnell. In 1922, when Mr. Park lost his sight as a result of influenza they moved to Grinnell and have since made their home at 1216 Main street.

He leaves his devoted wife, with whom he spent over fifty years of perfect happiness, two daughters, Mrs. J. L. Carpenter of near Malcom and Ada, at home, and one son, Hubbard Beaton Park of Morgan Hill, Calif.; also a sister, Mrs. Amy Black, and a nephew, Oliver Park Black of Boston, and four grand children, David, Winslow, Donovan and Ruth Carpenter.

Mr. Park joined the Congregational church in Chester and has been a devoted Christian his whole life long. He was faithful in attendance at church services until the failing of his sight and hearing prevented, and after he was confined to his home he found a great comfort in the radio which brought him every Sunday the sermons which he loved to hear. He was a man devoted to his home, where the sweetness of his nature and his thoughtful care were ever in evidence. In spite of the afflictions of his later years he has never complained and has ever been appreciative of the ministrations of his devoted wife and daughter, and the visits of his daughter Louise and family. He was interested and helpful as his means allowed in every movement for good in this community and his influence has always been on the side of right things.

His illness had not been acute until the past few days and death came peacefully to end a life full of years and good deeds. He will be lovingly remembered by all who knew him for all recognized his sterling worth.

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