

# The Grinnell Herald

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## HENRY A. FIELD

Old Soldier and Teacher Passes to  
Final Reward East Thursday.

In the passing of Henry A. Field Grinnell loses another of the veterans of the Civil war, and Iowa one of its consecrated and successful school men.

Mr. Field was born at Denmark, Iowa, March 29, 1842, and so at his death, Mar. 14, 1924, he lacked but a few days of being 82 years of age. He entered Denmark Academy and was a student there when the Civil war broke out. He was one of a number of young men who marched forward at a meeting held in the Denmark chapel to inspire enlistments, and signed the roster as a soldier for the Union. He was a soldier of the First Iowa, serving thro the term for which the regiment was mustered in.

At the close of this term of service he re-entered the academy, but later re-enlisted in the 45th Iowa and served to the end of the war.

He returned to Denmark and graduated from the Academy with the class of 1867, under the principalship of Prof. H. K. Edson, whom Mr. Field always mentioned in terms of love.

In December, 1863, Mr. Field was united in marriage with Helen M. Irish, the mother of his four children, who passed away in Grinnell in July, 1902.

After graduation he taught successively in Troy Academy, in Davis county, in St. Francisville Academy, Mo., and was Principal of the public schools at Panora and Shelby, Iowa, removing to Grinnell about 25 years ago.

Mr. Field joined the Odd Fellows in 1868 or '69. When he moved to Panora he dimitted to the Panora Lodge and remained a member of that lodge until his death—an Odd Fellow of over 50 years service.

Three daughters survive him, Anna, Blanch and Helen, all of Grinnell—one daughter, Ruth, having passed away a few years ago. Until her husband's second marriage the grandchildren were cared for in the home with all a father's love.

The funeral was held at the late home Saturday at two o'clock conducted by Mr. Field's pastor, Rev. E. W. Cross. Mr. Cross paid the following beautiful tribute to the deceased man as a man, soldier and Christian teacher:

Henry A. Field whose passing last Thursday called forth so many expressions of honor and regard was a man who exemplified those qualities of mind and conscience which we like to think most characteristic of the best American citizenship. He was in every sense an Iowa man, for he was born to pioneer parents at Denmark, Iowa, in the year 1842. With the exception of the period of his army service and a few years of his boyhood spent with his grandparents in Peterborough, New Hampshire, his whole life has been spent in this state.

He was a student in Denmark Academy when Lincoln's first call for volunteers was issued. At a meeting in the church made famous by that rugged preacher, Asa Turner, young Field went forward and gave his name in as a volunteer. His first service was with the First Iowa Infantry. He after-

ward re-enlisted with the Forty-fifth Iowa Infantry. The younger generation of Grinnellians know him as an active member of the Gordon Granger Post of the G. A. R. Several times he served as Commander of the Post and for a great many years had performed efficiently the exacting duties as Quartermaster. Mr. Field's patriotism burned with a steady flame

in peace as well as in war. He sought always to contribute something to the country he loved and he believed in America's future with an unflinching faith.

He had an active mind and was a student and reader of the best literature throughout his life. In fact he subscribed for the first issues of The Century and Scribners and these magazines were never absent from his reading table. This enthusiasm for genuine culture led him quite naturally into the profession of teaching.

For a great many years he taught at Troy Academy and later taught in the public schools of Panora and Shelby. He had the true teacher's power to kindle intellectual and moral fires and his old students remember him with gratitude.

In 1892 he came with his family to Grinnell in order that his children might have the educational opportunities afforded here. He took pride in the fact that his four daughters were graduates of Grinnell College.

Mr. Field was a loyal and exemplary member of the Congregational church, a man whose religion controlled and elevated his daily conduct and provided him with unflinching strength and courage.

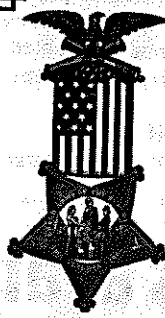
His declining years were brightened by the presence of his two devoted daughters. In recent months his strength has steadily failed though his faculties were not impaired. Death

came gently to him and found him ready.

His old friend Dr. Edmund M. Vit-tum sent a message of appreciation to be read at the funeral service from which the following paragraphs are taken:

"Mr. Field was faithful—faithful in his work, faithful in his business obligations, faithful to his family, above all faithful to his God. His heart and life were pure; his word was as strong as his bond; he was

Mr. Field is survived by three daughters, Anna of Ypsilanti, Michigan, and Helen and Blanche of Grinnell and by three grandchildren, the children of his daughter Ruth; Joseph, Helen and Ruth Howell of Detroit, Michigan.



# Grand Army of the Republic

## HENRY A. FIELD

2015 will mark the 150th anniversary of the end of America's Civil War. Grinnell Historical Museum volunteers Karen Groves, Ann Igoe, Julie Young and Shane Estes have created biographies of men who were participants in a local project just after World War I to photograph Civil War veterans. The Nina Wayne Grau Studio photographed the Grinnell veterans in 1922. Over 200 Civil War veterans are buried in Hazelwood Cemetery, including most of the veterans photographed in 1922. Here is one of those portraits and biographies:

Henry A. Field was born to pioneer parents on March 29, 1842, in Denmark. He was one of only two native Iowans to be represented among the Civil War veterans photographed in 1922. Only ten of them served in Iowa units with the rest serving in regiments from seven other states, showing the massive westward migration in the U.S. underway in the 19th century.

Field entered the Denmark Academy and was a student there when the Civil War broke out. He was one of a number of young men who marched forward at a meeting held in the Denmark Chapel to inspire enlistments and signed up as a Union soldier of the First Iowa Infantry, a three-month enlistment.

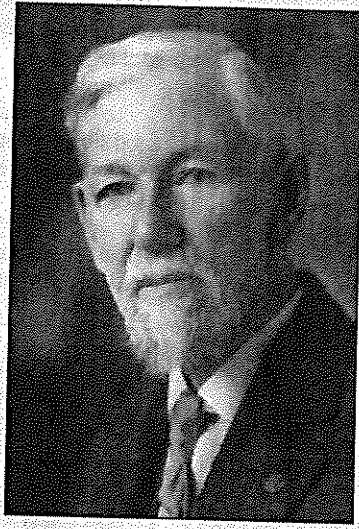
The unit served in campaigns in Missouri, including Booneville, Springfield, Forsyth and Wilson's Creek, and then retreated to Springfield and Rolla where their enlistment was up Aug. 20, 1861.

Field re-entered the Denmark Academy but later re-enlisted in the 45th Iowa which was a 100-day unit organized at Keokuk on May 25, 1864. The unit guarded railroads in Tennessee till the end of the war. He returned to the Academy and graduated with the Class of 1867.

Field married Helen M. Irish in 1868 and then taught in Troy Academy in Davis County, in St. Francisville Academy in Missouri, and was principal of the public

schools in Panora and Shelby before coming to Grinnell in 1892 so his children might have the educational opportunities of the town.

Field had an active mind and was a student and reader of the best literature throughout his life. His obituary says he subscribed for the first issues of "The Century" and "Scribners," and these magazines were never absent from his reading table. This enthusiasm for genuine culture led him quite naturally into the teaching profession.



Upon arrival in Grinnell, Field sold real estate and insurance, adding magazines and newspapers a little later. The family first lived at 603 First Ave. but by 1908 were living at 828 Park St. Field's wife died in 1902, so he raised their three daughters, Anna, Blanch and Helen, and cared for some grandchildren in his home as well. The couple's daughter Ruth had passed away previously.

Field was an active member of the Odd Fellows beginning in 1868 or 69, joined the Congregational Church and was active in Grinnell's Gordon Granger post of the Grand Army of the Republic, an organization of Civil War veterans, serving as Commander of the Post several times as well as Quartermaster.

Field died March 14, 1924, at the age of 81 and was buried at Hazelwood Cemetery.