Funeral Will Be Held at the House, 1717 Sixth Avenue, at Two o’clock Tomorrow, Saturday Afternoon, 1930.

Daniel F. Hays, Grinnell’s oldest citizen, one of the few remaining real pioneers of this county, passed away Friday at ten o’clock P.M. Mr. Hays had been gradually growing weaker for months. His mind was absolutely clear at the time of his death, he knew his family, called them by name and spoke other words.

Before that however he had been in a coma several hours but he recovered sufficiently to know and recognize those about him.

Mrs. Hays is not very strong but is bearing the ordeal of the death of her husband of almost sixty-three years with fortitude. and is getting along finely.

The funeral will be held at the late home tomorrow afternoon at two o’clock in charge of Rev. A. E. Cudahy of the Methodist church. Burial will be on the family lot in Hazelwood.

December 12th, 1967, he was united in marriage at Mechanicstown, Maryland, with Miss Susan Weller and had lived till the 12th of next month when he would have lived out a full 60 years of happy married life together.

There were many useful families who only have to remove to Chester and to the Hays family. They had lived the longest and given the most in sacrifice, personal effort, and wise counsel for the good of the community.

His life in Grinnell for thirty years has been that of a man interested in the political life of the country, of the party to which he belonged and the church of which he was a faithful, active member.

Mr. Hays was a Civil War veteran and one of the few remaining pioneers.

A Christian gentleman, pioncier, citizen, soldier, neighbor and friend has passed to his final reward. Daniel F. Hays who possessed all the above attributes of mind and heart and a historical background of rare merit, was born in Frederick County, Maryland, August 1st, 1834, and passed to his final rest Nov. 8, 1932, at the ripe old age of ninety-six years, three months and five days.

What Mr. Hays and his faithful wife have been to this community can never be told in words. In his younger life he was a blacksmith. He came to Grinnell in October, 1856, after he had passed his thirty-second birthday. At little over a year afterward, in 1858, he became a resident of Chester township and until 1899 he was recognized as one of the most straight and worthy citizens of that community.

He served in the Civil war, having enlisted Sept. 17, 1862, in Company E 4th Iowa cavalry, and was with that cavalry unit during the entire Civil war until he was mustered out June 17, 1865, at Nashville, Tenn.

On his return he followed the occupation of a short time blacksmith to which he joined the occupation of a farmer in his Chester township land.

Death Calls Daniel F. Hays


FUNERAL SERVICES ARE HELD SATURDAY AFTERNOON

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It is hardly possible to mention anything interesting and valuable of Mr. Hays service to Chester township of which he was a prominent and leading part. He was one of the organizers of the township in 1860 and was one of the first voters to execute the right of franchise.

After the township organization he served as trustee and filled other offices with honor to the township and credit to himself. He was one of the first trustees of the Chester Cemetery Association. He was one of the organizers of the Sonora Methodist church, March 19, 1867, and served the church in every useful capacity during many long years of its exist-
DANIEL F. HAYS.

A tried and true soldier in times of danger and an industrious and progressive citizen in times of peace, Daniel F. Hays, now living at Grinnell, deserves mention in a history treating of the substantial citizens of Poweshiek county. He is a native of Frederick county, Maryland, and was born August 1, 1834, a son of Joseph and Elizabeth (Fuss) Hays, both of whom were born in Maryland. The mother died in 1846, when the subject of this review was a boy of twelve years. The father was a blacksmith by trade and followed this line in the east for thirty-five years. In October, 1860, he came to Grinnell, Iowa, where he spent eighteen months, removing on April 19, 1858, to a farm in Chester township. Having once established himself as an agriculturist he set vigorously to work to develop his property, and for forty-one years he was identified with agriculture and stock-raising in this county, his demise occurring in 1890.

Daniel F. Hays received his preliminary education in the common schools of Maryland, and in his young manhood learned the blacksmith's trade. He came to Iowa with his father and was just fairly settling down in life when his plans were interfered with by the Civil war. On September 22, 1862, he enlisted in Company E, Fourth Iowa Cavalry, and participated with the regiment in many important battles and movements. He was present at the Vicksburg campaign and was with the regiment at the battle of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, which was one of the hardest fought battles in which the regiment took part during the entire war. The Fourth Iowa assisted in covering the retreat of the army for sixty miles and private Hays witnessed terrific scenes of slaughter during this memorable period, the recollection of which are as vivid in his memory as if they were enacted but yesterday. He also served in the campaign of General Wilson in Alabama and Georgia in 1865. He was honorably mustered out June 17, 1865, at Nashville, Tennessee, and returned to Poweshiek county. He conducted a blacksmith shop at Grinnell and later engaged in farming, also maintaining a blacksmith shop upon his place. In 1864 he moved to Grinnell, where he has since lived.

On the 12th of December, 1867, Mr. Hays was united in marriage at Mechanicsburg, Maryland, to Miss Susan Weller, a daughter of Thomas Weller, of Maryland, who died when his daughter Susan was four years old. Six children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Hays, five of whom grew to maturity, namely: Joseph Weller, a graduate of Cornell College at Mount Vernon, Iowa, who is married and now resides at Chicago, Illinois; Harvey G. A., also a graduate of Cornell College, who is married and lives on a farm at Hereford, Texas; Rosa D., at home; Charles W., who is married and lives in Chicago; and Grace S., also at home.

Mr. Hays and his wife are now living in a beautiful residence in Grinnell with a well-kept lawn and fine shade trees, making it one of the most attractive homes in the city. They are earnest friends of education, as is shown by the unusual facilities enjoyed by their children, all of whom were given the advantages of a college training. Mr. Hays voted for Abraham Lincoln as president and he has generally supported the republican party since, but he has prohibition tendencies in local affairs. He was one of the founders of Chester township and has held many of the offices of the township from its earliest days. He is a valued member of the Methodist church and of the Grand Army Post at Grinnell. Having now arrived at his seventy-seventh year he is practically retired from active labor and enjoys a peace and prosperity which he has richly earned by many years of earnest effort.
and was united in marriage with Miss Mary Henderson, born June 17, 1732, a lady of worth, and of Scotch descent. To this husband and wife were born two daughters and three sons, who survived to mature years. Of the twelve sons of their grandfather, several served with distinguished gallantry in the War of the Revolution.

Five children blessed the home of Jonathan and Mary (Henderson) Hays. Elizabeth married Thomas Wilson, and settled in the Western Reserve in Maryland, and most of their descendants now reside in Keokuk, Iowa; John located in West Virginia, and there reared a family; Joseph, who was born October 18, 1750, made his home in Carroll County, Md., and was twice married, having five children by his first union, and two by his second; Thomas, who was born May 91, 1751, spent his life in Frederick County, Md., having married Elizabeth Armstrong, and reared a family of six children; Abiram, who was born May 14, 1794, lived and died in Frederick County, Md., and there none but his wife; Henrietta Maria, were four and survived to adult age; three children: Elizabeth E. who was born August 16, 1800, married John Hare, and after his death came to Poweshiek County, where she died; Deborah, who was born April 1, 1802, and died in 1870. The latter was continued in an early day, when there were but sixty inhabitants, and was accompanied by a slave, who died there, having faithfully remained in the service of his mistress, who survived until 1886. Joseph Hays, the third child, was born in what is now known as Carroll County, Md., November 1, 1893; he attained manhood in Philadelphia, and was married to Miss Elizabeth Fuss, May 1, 1833. He was a blacksmith by trade, and carried on his business until the year 1856, when he journeyed to Poweshiek County, Iowa, bringing with him his family of four children. Daniel F. was the eldest; Deborah died in this county in 1854; Joseph E. is now a farmer of this county; and Thomas H. is also an agriculturist of Chester Township.

The mother of these children died in Maryland in 1845, and the brother and sisters were reared by an aunt, Elizabeth Hays. The father, after arriving in his Western home, followed farming.
and yet surviving, now resides with our subject, his son, Daniel E., who was twenty-two years old when he settled in Poweshiek County. Immediately upon the breaking out of the Civil War, Daniel E. Hayes re-enlisted the cause of the Union, and bravely enlisted in September, 1862, in Company E., Fourth Iowa Cavalry, which regiment afterward volunteered. The first general engagement in which the command participated was under Grant at Jackson, Miss., at the siege of Vicksburg, and until the close of the war the regiment took an active part in the numerous and decisive battles of the long campaign. It was upon June 17, 1865, after years of faithful duty courageously performed, that our subject was honorably mustered out of the service of the Government at Nashville, Tenn. At once returning to his home, Mr. Hayes entered again into the pursuit of agriculture in Poweshiek County. Later he met Miss Sarah B. Wellers, daughter of Thomas and Sophia Weller, old-time residents of the Maryland home. The young lady had come to visit her sister, Mrs. P. Danner, of Grinnell, and there the old friendship was renewed, and in December, 1867, Miss Weller became the wife of our subject. Of the six children born to Mr. and Mrs. Hayes, five survive: Joseph W., who was educated in the college at Grinnell, and who is a graduate of Mt. Vernon school, in the Class of 1899; the eldest son. Since completing his studies, he has devoted himself to newspaper work. Harvey G. is now a promising student in the Mt. Vernon School. Ruth D. was educated in Grinnell, and is an accomplished young lady, and teaches school in Chester Township. Charles W. is attending school at Grinnell. Grace, a bright girl, is also in school. The sixth little one died in infancy.

The Hayes family came to Chester Township, April 14, 1858, when but two houses had been erected in the township, although there were several families in temporary tents. The third house built was occupied by the father of our subject, who purchased a farm of two hundred and forty acres, this far, east near being in the possession of Daniel E. Hayes in 1864, by which improvements, the Hayes have directly or indirectly assisted in the building of every schoolhouse and bridge in the township, and are all connected with the Methodist Episcopal Church and active in the good works of that denomination. Politically, the family were in early days Whigs, but since the formation of the Republican party are steadfast to its principles and vote that ticket, pledged to reform and progress. Among the branches of the family widely known were the early settlers of Tennessee, Samuel Hayes and his son, John Coffee Hayes, who was one of the heroes of the Mexican War. No family has done more important service in the settlement of the State of Iowa than the family of which our subject is an honored representative. Intimately identified with the enterprises and progressive interests of Poweshiek County from pioneer days, Daniel E. Hayes is widely known and highly esteemed, commanding the full confidence of the host of old-time friends and acquaintances with whom he has for many years labored in behalf of the mutual welfare of their home locality. As a citizen and a soldier, our subject has been true to his land and his country, and earnest, energetic and enterprising, is a faithful American citizen.
Daniel F. Hays was born to Joseph and Elizabeth Fuss Hays in Frederick County, Md., on Aug. 1, 1834. Joseph Hays was a blacksmith who brought his four children to Poweshiek County in 1856 after his wife died. Joseph Hays purchased a farm in Chester Township and built the third house in the township.

Daniel Hays enlisted in Company E of the Fourth Iowa Cavalry in September of 1862. The regiment participated in the Mississippi campaign, including the siege of Vicksburg and the battle of Guntown, and in General Wilson's campaigns in Alabama and Georgia in 1865. Hays was mustered out of the army on June 17, 1865, and returned to Poweshiek County.

Daniel Hays' granddaughter, Lucile Hays Fritz, captured the Civil War stories her grandfather told her based on the diary he kept during the war in a document called "Three Years in the Union Army." Hays detailed his journey from his Iowa farm to Davenport for training and on a steamship to Helena, Ark., to join the regiment. The memoirs continue with reports about the life of a soldier, including the battles, marches, camp duties and many stories about the other soldiers with whom he served. A copy of this diary may be found at the Grinnell Historical Museum.

Hays farmed in Chester Township until he moved to Grinnell in 1904 where he conducted a blacksmith business.

Daniel Hays and Susan Weller were married on Dec. 12, 1867, and had a family of six children, all of whom attended college. After moving to Grinnell the family resided at 1717 Sixth Ave.

Hays was one of the founders of Chester Township and held many township offices. He was a member of the Methodist church and of the Grand Army of the Republic Post in Grinnell, an organization of Civil War veterans.

Education was important to Daniel and Susan Hays, and they directly or indirectly assisted in building every schoolhouse in Chester Township. Hays worked with Professor Parker of Grinnell College to write a history of Poweshiek County.

In an article in the Oct. 17, 1929, edition of the Grinnell Register Hays spoke of his memories of an early Grinnell and the progress the town had made. He talked about the prairie and the awesome sight of a prairie fire as well as the beauty of the prairie in winter.

Daniel Hays died at the age of 96 on Nov. 6, 1930, and is buried in Hazelwood Cemetery. His wife Susan and four children were then living, J. W., Harvey G., Charles W., and Grace S.