

Funeral Of 4-3- J. M. Kirk Is 1934 Held In Newton

Quite a delegation of Grinnell people went to Newton Monday morning to attend the funeral of J. M. Kirk, old soldier and for many years an honored resident of Grinnell. Among those present from here were John Rehder, Steve Smith, E. L. York, A. F. Swaney, George Sampson, Judge T. J. Noll and Dr. J. W. Souter. The body was taken to Davenport for burial.

Mr. Kirk was 92 years old and passed away at 11:30 o'clock Friday morning at the home of his grand-daughter, Mrs. Arlene Ketcham, after a lingering illness of five months.

Mr. Kirk was born in Butler county, Pa., March 9, 1842, and was the last surviving member of a family of four children. He came to Jasper county in 1876, and located at Kellogg, later living at Grinnell and Montezuma. He followed the carpenter trade for more than 50 years.

Mr. Kirk served as quartermaster sergeant of the 47th Illinois Infantry during the Civil War, serving for four years and seven months. He was a member of the Grinnell G. A. R. post.

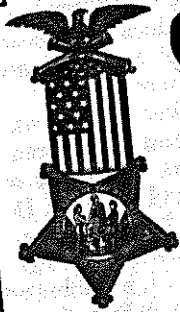
He was united in marriage to Alice E. Green at Davenport Oct. 7, 1868, and to this union were born five children, two of whom survive. Three sons died in infancy, and his wife preceded him in death April 10, 1915, at Grinnell.

Later on, Oct. 9, 1917, he married Anna Fenner of Grinnell, who preceded him in death in July 1928. Since her death, Mr. Kirk had been making his home with his grand-daughter, Mrs. Ketcham, in Newton during the winter months and had been living at the Old Soldiers' Home at Marshalltown during the summer.

Of his Masonic record, Mr. Kirk was justly proud. He became affiliated with the lodge at Whitefield, Ill., in 1887, and was made an honorary member of Herman Lodge No. 273 of Grinnell in 1919. He was taken into the Council at Marshalltown last May.

Although a member of the Baptist church, Mr. Kirk had been attending the Methodist Episcopal church during his residence in Newton. He was also a member of The Newton Daily News' Three Quarter Century club of Jasper county.

Surviving relatives include two daughters, Mrs. Fred Ellison and Mrs. Jesse Hammer of Newton, and four grandchildren, Harry L. Sheely of Davenport, Mrs. Lee Downey of Syracuse, N. Y., Edward Sheely of Arapahoe, Colo., and Mrs. Ketcham of Newton.



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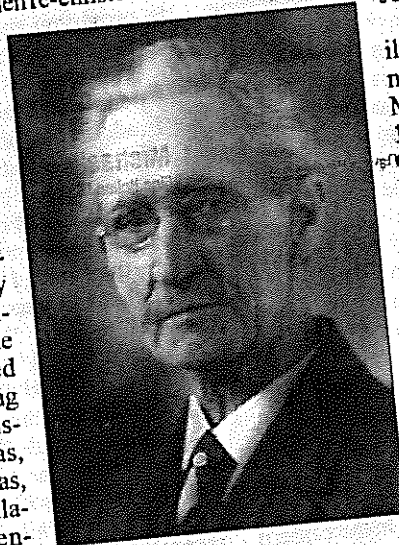
Grand Army of the Republic

JAMES M. KIRK

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:

James M. Kirk was born in Butler County, Pa., on March 9, 1842. He was farming near Henry in Marshall County, Ill., and was 19 years old when he enlisted on Aug. 16, 1861, as a private in Company G, 47th Illinois Infantry. He then re-enlisted as a veteran with the rank of quartermaster sergeant in Company A of the 47th Illinois on Feb. 22, 1864, while at Vicksburg, Miss.

Kirk participated in many battles and campaigns all over the southern United States, including locations in Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas, Mississippi, Alabama and Tennessee. Among the locations where he served were New Madrid, Fort Pillow, Corinth, Booneville, Iuka, Vicksburg, Jackson, Memphis, Black River Bridge, Red River Campaign, Pleasant Hill, Alexandria, Morganza, Tupelo, Louisville, Bowling Green, Nashville, New Orleans, Mobile, and Selma. His regiments guarded many railroads, pursued Confederate General Sterling Price and General Nathan Bedford Forrest, participated in the campaign against Mobile and its defenses and fought on or near various rivers and bayous. He was mustered out on Jan. 21, 1866, serving a total of four years and seven months.



Kirk was married to Alice E. Green on Oct. 7, 1868, in Davenport. The couple settled in Jasper County, locating at Kellogg in 1876. They had three sons who all died and two daughters who survived into adulthood, Mrs. Fred Ellison and Mrs. Jesse Hammer.

The Kirk family moved to Grinnell in 1882, to Montezuma in 1888 and back to Grinnell to 615 Broad St. in 1907. In 1910 they lived at 721 Main St. Alice died in 1915.

Kirk married Anna Fenner on Oct. 9, 1917, and they lived at 1020 Main St. Kirk and Anna moved to the Soldier's Home in Marshalltown

and then to the home of a daughter in Newton. They moved several times between Marshalltown and Newton, and this continued after Anna died in 1928.

Kirk followed the carpenter trade for over 50 years. He was proud of his Masonic record from his first affiliation with a lodge at Whitefield, Ill., as early as 1867. He was made an honorary member of Herman Lodge No. 173 of Grinnell in 1919 and later even belonged to a lodge in Marshalltown.

Kirk died April 3, 1934, and was buried in Davenport where his three infant sons and first wife were buried.