KORNS, Jacob, youngest of ten children of Wm. and Eliza (Ileyman) Korns, was b. in Holmes county, Ohio, Apr. 29, 1846, where he lived until he was a young man, then came west and settled on one of the farms purchased from the government by his father in 1854. Jacob served in the Civil War, enlisting in the 19th Vol. at Brooklyn. Many of this company were college students from Iowa college at Grinnell. They were sent to Memphis and experienced some hard service. After his return home he engaged in teaching school, working his farm in the summer. In the fall of 1886 he returned to Fulton Co., O., where he engaged in the mercantile business, and there made the acquaintance of Emma Jacobs, who had come from Norwalk to visit her sisters.

In 1871 they were married and came to Iowa and settled on the farm. This young couple were a great help to the community in those pioneer days. Both were musicians. Many winters he conducted singing schools and she taught music to the children and young people, having brought with her from the old home a melodeon, one of the finest of that day.

They also conducted a Sunday School in the community in school houses until they could build a church, and the church was built on a corner of their farm and was the center of community life until the railroad came through and the little town of Hartwick was founded. Then the church was moved to town.

In 1894 they left the farm and moved to Brooklyn to be near high school and in 1900 came to Grinnell so that the daughters might attend college. In 1910 they came into town to 1018 Park street, and there the mother still resides, the father having died March 25, 1930. The six daughters are: Mrs. F. R. Porter, Mrs. J. L. McGrath, Mrs. Chas. Dayton of Brooklyn, Mrs. Jean Stickle of Des Moines, Miss Harriet Korns and Mrs. Ralph Mandy of Fort Madison.
2015 will mark the 150th anniversary of the end of America’s Civil War. Grinnell Historical Museum volunteers Karen Groves, Ann Igoo, Julie Young and Shane Edes 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:

Jacob Korns, the son of William and Eliza Hoyman Korns, was born in Holmes County, Ohio, on April 29, 1845. He was the youngest of 11 children. William Korns purchased several farms in Iowa in 1854, and Jacob came west in 1864 to settle on one of those farms. Korns enlisted in Company B of the 46th Iowa Infantry on May 16, 1864. Grinnell College Professor L. F. Parker was second lieutenant of this company which included 22 Grinnell College students. Korns was discharged for poor health on Sept. 23, 1864. The 46th infantry Regiment was one of the regiments formed with men who enlisted for 100 days of service, created to perform guard and garrison duty so that more experienced units could be put into battle with Generals Grant and Sherman. In an article from the Grinnell Herald on April 10, 1925, Korns recalled singing with the College Glee Club in their camp at Memphis, Tenn. Jacob Korns and Emma Jacobs of Ohio were married on Dec. 14, 1871, and became the parents of six daughters. Korns continued to develop the native prairie into their farm near Hartwick.

The Korns gave land for the Hartwick church and helped with its construction in 1875. Both Korns were active in the life of the church. Jacob Korns was a strong singer and taught classes in vocal music for aspiring singers of all ages.

The family moved to Brooklyn in 1894 and to Grinnell in 1901 so the children could attend Grinnell College. They lived at 1018 Park St. in Grinnell.

Jacob Korns died on March 25, 1930, and is buried in Hazelwood Cemetery.