

SAMUEL M'FATE

DEEPLY MOURNED

3-26-1926
Honored Resident of Grinnell Passed
Away Here on March
23.

HAD ALMOST REACHED
AGE OF 87 YEARS.

Served in Union Army During Civil
War—Was Universally
Respected.

Samuel McFate was born in Philadelphia, Mar. 27, 1839. He died at his home in north-west Grinnell, March 23, 1926. If he had lived four days longer he would have reached the rare old age of 87 years.

Mr. McFate's father died when he was about 6 months old and he was brought to Iowa by his mother and his step-father before he was three years old. Mr. McFate was brought up, and, except for three years spent in the army, he lived at LeClaire until his marriage. He enlisted as a member of Company G, 20th Iowa Volunteers, and served with his regiment at Prairie Grove, Vicksburg and other important battles of the Civil war. He was mustered out in August, 1865, at Mobile, Ala.

Returning to LeClaire, he was married September 9, 1869, to the estimable lady who survives him, Rachel Stigers. Immediately after their marriage they settled in the north-east part of Muscatine County and lived there until March 1886 when they moved to Sheridan Township this county and located on the farm where they spent their lives until seven years ago, about one-half mile north of the Sheridan store and here their son Clarence now lives.

Ten children were born to this union, nine of whom are still living. They are Mrs. Laura Alice Brown, Grinnell; John McFate of Denver; LeRoy McFate of Colfax, Alma Elizabeth who died about one year ago; Victor Albert, now a resident of Madison township, this county; Harvey James McFate who is living in Chester Township; Clark McFate of Melvin, Minn.; Orville of Grinnell; Lucy Blanche Dexter of this city and Clarence of Sheridan Township. There are also 27 grandchildren and 5 great grand children.

After moving to this county, Mr. McFate joined the Methodist Church in Sheridan and after coming to Grinnell his membership was transferred to the Methodist Church in this place.

His mother died within a few years after her removal to LeClaire, the result of a rattle snake bite when Samuel was but ten years old.

The funeral service was held at the house at 12:30 Thursday. The body was then taken to Sheridan where a service was held in the Methodist church at two o'clock, conducted by Rev. George Blagg of this city. Burial was in the Sheridan cemetery.

The music was by Mrs. Ennis and Mrs. Snook. Rev. M. Hurlbut participated in the service at Sheridan.

Mr. McFate has lived many years in this county and has always been recognized as a man of strong character, of usefulness and of influence for good. He and his worthy wife raised a family in Sheridan of whom any community might be proud. They honored their parentage by growing up into a worthy manhood and womanhood and the fact that they were useful and honored citizens has been a great help to the father and mother. In the death of Mr. McFate, not only his family but his friends have suffered a great loss. As Mr. Blagg read in his memorial service, "He had reached the far west of a superb life. He was the soul of honor, industrious, kindly, and a true husband and father."

The six sons who were able to be present were pall bearers.

Those attending the funeral from out of town were: Clark McFate of Melvin, Minn.; LeRoy McFate of Colfax; John, Frank and Lillie McFate of Davenport; Carl and Earl McFate and D. F. Pugh of Toledo; Mrs. R. Spire and A. Stigers of Tama; Arthur Stigers of Wolcott; Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Stigers of Valley Junction; Floyd, Howard and Letha McElvania of Hampton; and Charles McElvania of Walnut, Illinois.

3-27-1909
 70TH ANNIVERSARY
 OF SHERIDAN PIONEER.

SAMUEL McFATE was born in the city of Philadelphia, March 27, 1829. So on Saturday, March 27, 1909, he reached his 70th birthday. He came to Iowa when he was but two years of age, and thus has a record of sixty-eight years in the state, a continued residence which few men in the state at this time can surpass.

He was the son of John McFate and Mary Moore, both of whom were born in Ireland, and came to America when they were young. They were married in the city of Philadelphia. Two sons were born to this union, Samuel, of whom we write, and James McFate, now living at LeClaire, Iowa. John McFate died when his son Samuel was a young boy. His widow then married W. A. Stewart. To the union of Mr. Stewart and Mary McFate were born three children, David Stewart of Grapeland township, Mary Stewart Porter, now deceased, and Alexander Stewart, residence now, if living, unknown.

Mrs. Stewart died in 1851, and thus our subject was left an orphan at twelve years of age. Soon after the death of his father, his mother came to Muscatine county, Iowa. Here he grew to manhood, and was a factor in the early development of the state. There was but three houses in Davenport when he came there. He has five years a resident of Iowa territory. Much of the state was yet in possession of the Indians. No settlers lived in the country which is now his home. To follow the course of the years of his residence in Iowa would be to trace the early history of the state.

In 1850 Samuel McFate and Miss Rachel Stigers, both of Muscatine county, were united in marriage. Miss Stigers was a daughter of John Stigers and Elizabeth Thomas, being born at Mt. Vernon, Ohio in 1815. Father Stigers was born in Pennsylvania in 1746, and Mother Stigers was born in West Virginia in 1810. They emigrated to Muscatine county, Iowa, in 1851. She died in 1877, and he died in 1891. To trace the ancestry of Mrs. McFate, her grandfather was David Stigers, who was born in Germany, and came to America when but six

months old.

At the time of their marriage Mr. and Mrs. McFate located on a farm in the north part of Muscatine county. This was their home until their removal to Sheridan township, Pottawattamie county, in 1880. At that time they purchased the 100 acre farm of C. B. Baldwin, and this has been their home. Here the family of ten children grew to manhood and womanhood.

At this time Mr. and Mrs. McFate have been married forty years. A family of ten children have grown to mature years, and the only death in the family in the four decades is that of one daughter-in-law.



SAMUEL McFATE.

But of as much interest as ancestral and family ties is Mr. McFate's record of three years service in the Civil War. He attained his majority in 1850, and that fall voted for Abraham Lincoln for president, and he has voted the republican ticket since that time. Endorsing the work and policy of Lincoln at the polls in 1860, he moved his family by his works, and on August 2, 1862, at Clinton, Iowa, he enlisted in Co. G, 29th Iowa Infantry. With his company and regiment he went at once to St. Louis, Mo., and thence to Springfield. Thence south to the Ozark country. The great part of the first year of service he spent in the state of Missouri, in the Gavarrilla country there. His company was commanded by Capt. Abram. And while Mr. McFate was under Gen. Heron's

His first real engagement with the enemy was at Fayetteville, Ark., and then at the battle of Prairie Grove, Dec. 25, 1862. Here on that memorable day he was twice wounded, first of the arm, being struck by a glancing

confederate ball. The second wound was in the leg, the ball entering the flesh and its course was lost. To this day Mr. McFate carries in his leg that confederate ball. After six weeks in the hospital at Fayetteville, Ark., he again joined his regiment, and strange to say the ball has never since caused him any trouble.

The special duty of the regiment to prevent confederate property from being smuggled into Mexico.

From Texas the regiment was transferred by way of New Orleans to Mobile, Alabama. Here they took part in the action against that city, and were stationed at Ft. Morgan, and other places. This brings us to the end of the three years enlistment, and active scenes of the war being over, Uncle Sam had no further need for his stalwart men, and those who had been three years in the service were discharged. The regiment proceeded by way of St. Louis, to Clinton, Iowa, and discharged in August 1865.

Of Mr. McFate's comrades in arms of his company is Henry Hillan now living in Malcom, and of the regiment are W. C. Hatkey of Chester, and two comrades living in Tama county. He has always been interested in the reunions of his regiment, and has been almost a regular attendant of the biennial gatherings of the 29th Iowa which are held at Cedar Rapids, Marion and Davenport, respectively. He did not apply for a pension until 1892, and now as he passes his 70th birthday, he will be entitled to the advance provided for by the United States government.

Mrs. McFate united with the Methodist Episcopal church in Muscatine county when a young lady, and at the time of her death by Sheridan township.

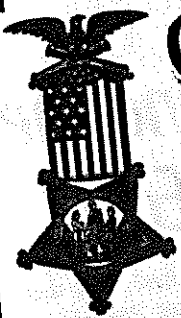
...red her membership to the church here. Mr. McFate united with the church soon after he located in the township. Since their residence here they have been active workers in the church and Sunday School. He has been especially interested in the success of the public school, serving as director for several years and is now the secretary of the board at ... Outside of being an official school director he has never any public office. She has been active member in all the social in the church, and that which was the good of the community.

Mr. McFate's record is this: seventy years of life; sixty-eight years in Iowa; three years in the service of Uncle Sam during the Civil War; since Christmas day, 1862, he has carried a Confederate bullet in his leg; twenty-three years in Sheridan township; the father of seven boys, all noble men, and three daughters, queens in the household; modest and reserved in his every day life in every way. The world is better by his having lived in it, and his extended circle of friends wish for him many years of life yet, and extend him and family warmest congratulations upon his anniversary.

After the Confederate army was defeated and driven out of Missouri, the 20th Iowa took part in the siege and capture of Vicksburg. It is fascinating now to listen to Mr. McFate relate his experience and action of two months around the doomed city. The regiment was stationed on the extreme left, near the river bank. The details of the siege in every part are familiar to him. Here he knew Gen. Grant. He marched into the city with the conquering army, on that July 4, 1863, and witnessed the scene of the surrender.

From Vicksburg the regiment went south, being at Port Hudson, Yazoo, and reached New Orleans before Christmas. Thence they were stationed far out in the Gulf of Mexico for three months, provisions coming by the way of Texas. From the island in the Gulf they were landed at the mouth of the Rio Grande, and thence up the river thirty miles. Stationed for a short time at Brownsville, but there were not as many stirring events here at that time as there has been of late years. While in this section

GH-R 9-22-2014



Grand Army of the Republic

SAMUEL MCFATE

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:

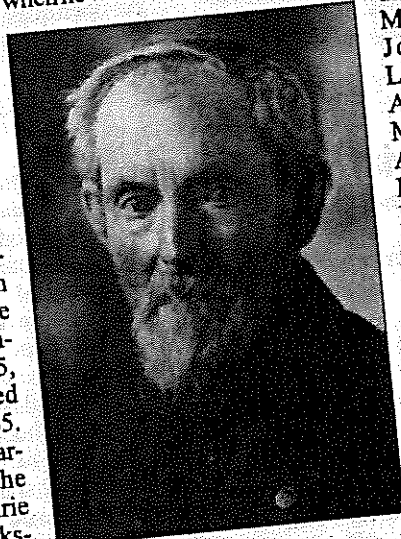
Samuel McFate was born in Philadelphia, Pa., on March 27, 1839, the son of John and Mary Moore McFate. His father died when he was six months old, and he was brought to LeClaire by his mother and step-father before age three and while Iowa was still a territory.

Samuel McFate enlisted in Company G of the 20th Iowa Volunteers on Aug. 25, 1862, and served until July 8, 1865. His regiment participated in the battles of Prairie Grove and Vicksburg and the siege and capture of both Fort Morgan and Fort Blakely. McFate was wounded at Prairie Grove and in the hospital for six weeks before re-joining his regiment.

McFate was married on Sept. 9, 1869, to Rachel Ann Stigers. They settled in Muscatine County. In March of 1886 they moved to

Sheridan Township in Poweshiek County and farmed a half mile north of the Sheridan store. The McFates were the parents of ten children,

- Laura Alice McFate Brown,
- John McFate,
- LeRoy McFate,
- Alma Elizabeth McFate,
- Victor Albert McFate,
- Harvey James McFate,
- Clark McFate,
- Orville McFate,
- Lucy Blanche McFate
- Dexter and Clarence McFate.



Samuel McFate was a school board member in Sheridan, president of the Farmer's Alliance and member of the Old Settlers Association. The family were members of the Methodist church. Samuel and Rachel McFate moved to Grinnell when they retired from farming and resided at 1315 Reed St.

Samuel McFate died on March 23, 1926, and is buried in the Sheridan Township Cemetery.