SAMUEL MCFATE
DEEPLY MOURNED

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 C, 30th 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 Silgers. 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 McFate of Melvin, Minn.; LeRoy McFate of Colfax; Ethel McFate of Denver; Carl and Earl McFate and D. F. Pugh of Toledo; Mrs. R. Spies and A. Silgers of Tama; Arthur Silgers of Winterset; Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Silgers of Valley Junction; Floyd Howard and Letha McElvania of Hampton; and Charles McElvania of Walnut, Illinois.

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. Eunice and Mrs. Snook. Rev. M. Hurbut participated in the service at Sheridan.

Mr. McFate has lived many years in this county and has always been regarded 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 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, industry, kindness, 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 Ethel McFate of Denver; Carl and Earl McFate and D. F. Pugh of Toledo; Mrs. R. Spies and A. Silgers of Tama; Arthur Silgers of Winterset; Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Silgers of Valley Junction; Floyd Howard and Letha McElvania of Hampton; and Charles McElvania of Walnut, Illinois.
SAMUEL MCFATE was born in the city of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on March 27, 1839. On Saturday, March 27, 1892, he reached his 53rd 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 surmount.

He was the son of John M. and Mary Moore, both of whom were born in Ireland, and came to America when they were young boys. 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 Huxley, Iowa. John and Jane died when his son Samuel was but six years old. His widow then married W. A. Stewart. To this union, Mr. Stewart and Mary McFate were born three children: David Stewart of Grinnell, Iowa; Mary Stewart Bowser, now deceased; and Alexander Stewart, resident now at Huxley, Iowa.

Mr. Stewart died in 1873, and the mother of the author was left an orphan at nineteen 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 were but three houses in the town where he came there. He has continued a resident of Iowa territory. He of the state was yet in possession of the Indians. No settlers lived in the county 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 1864 Samuel McFate and Miss Adie Bowser, both of Muscatine County, were united in marriage. Miss Bowser was a daughter of John and Elizabeth Bowser. He was born at Vermillion, Ohio, in 1847. Father Bowser was born in Pennsylvania in 1819, and Mother Bowser was born in West Virginia in 1821. They migrated to Muscatine County, Iowa, in 1831, and he married in 1857, and she died in 1881. To trace the ancestry of Mr. McFate, his grandfather was David Bowser, who was born in Germany, and came to America when he was 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, Polk County, in 1861. At that time they purchased the 100-acre farm of J. R. Balch and this has been their home ever since. Here the family of ten children were reared and brought up.

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

SAMUEL MCFATE.
After the Confederate army was repulsed and driven out of Missouri, the 49th Iowa took part in the siege and capture of Vicksburg. It is fascinating how to listen to Mr. McFate relate his experiences 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, Yzona, and reached New Orleans before Christmas. Thence they were stationed for a time 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 there at that time as there has been of late years. While in this section...
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 stepfather 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, Dixter 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.