JOHN N. PARKS
FUNERAL TODAY

Appropriate Services Were Held This Morning From Congregational Church.

WAS MEMBER OF ONE OF THE EARLY FAMILIES.

Mr. Parks Was a Well-Known Artist And Was Successful as a Painter of Portraits.

In the passing of John Newton Parks there is taken from Grinnell the last surviving member of a family which in the earlier days was a notable one and which has made a form the character of the earlier community. Until recently, Mr. Parks was unknown to those of our later citizens but in the earlier days when he lived here and where he enlisted for service in the Civil War, he was well known and loved. A painter by vocation he has been interested in painting the portraits of many notable people. Often and wisely in his memoir he said that in his youth and true was within these few years his life's work was to make friends for himself through his natural talent and beauty.

John Newton Parks was born in Victor, N. Y., in 1856, the son of Philip and Elia Oakes Parks. His home was in Grinnell, where he spent 1876. He entered in his youth at the age of 20 and was a pupil of B. T. Harned.

The following selections are taken from his papers shows the poetic soul and artistic nature of Mr. Parks, and will furnish beautiful thoughts for any who love nature and art.

To me it seems as if when God created the world—what was poetry? He formed it—what was sculpture? He colored it—that was painting. He painted it with living beings—that was the drama; and then we had the breath, and through every human voice a sometimes subtle communion with the soul; and those who listened understood something of the life and spirit and blood, something of nature's law and good—and they were made.

Funeral services were held this morning at the Congregational church conducted by Mr. Wittum. The bearers were: G. H. Hamlin, J. R. Lewis, F. P. Marvin, A. W. Child, J. J. Graham, and B. J. Nickle.

Present at the funeral was a large number of friends and acquaintances.
John Newton Parks was born July 1, 1848, in Victor, N.Y., to Philo and Phoebe Talbot Parks. He came to Grinnell with his parents in 1856 at the age of eight. Philo Parks was a well-known horticulturist with an artistic taste. His home was noteworthy for its beautiful landscaping. He was given charge of the park in Grinnell, planting the first trees taken from his own woodland.

Young John's first known works were figures cut in marble for the cemetery. His first painting lessons were given to him by Mrs. H. W. Parker in Grinnell. D.L. Talbot, a local artist who had a studio in Grinnell, accepted a few students who showed artistic talent, and it was in Talbot's studio that John Newton Parks developed his talent for portrait painting.

At 16 years of age, Parks enlisted in the army at Davenport on June 10, 1864, as a member of Co. B. 46th Iowa Infantry for 100 days. The 46th Iowa Infantry was made up of men from two colleges, Tabor and Iowa College, now known as Grinnell College. Grinnell College furnished a professor and every student who was eligible for military duty.

The company was ordered to Memphis, Tenn., on June 20, 1864, and then on to Colliersville, Tenn., on June 27, 1864, where it was assigned guard duty on the Memphis & Charleston Railroad until September of 1864. The unit was involved in action near Colliersville on July 24, 1864, as a detachment of Company I, and participated in the repulse of Confederate troops led by Nathan Bedford Forrest who attacked Memphis on Aug. 21, 1864.

Parks mustered out of the military on Sept. 23, 1864. The regiment lost one enlisted man killed in action and 27 through disease.

John Newton Parks became a portrait artist in 1870 while living in Grinnell and attending Grinnell College. He graduated from Grinnell College in 1875 and then studied in Chicago at the Art Students League under C.Y. Turner.

In Iowa Parks was known for having painted portraits of members of the town's founding generation, including J.B. and Julia Grinnell, Dr. Holyoke, and Mr. and Mrs. Craver. A painting of Grinnell College's President Magoun, commissioned by the college, was destroyed in the 1882 cyclone. He also painted portraits of the early Iowa Governors for the Capitol in Des Moines.

By 1880 Parks was living in Michigan and by 1900 had moved to Rochester, N.Y. In Rochester he painted two portraits of Susan B. Anthony. He is also known to have painted portraits in Boston and Washington, D.C.

The "Recovered Treasures: Saving Iowa's Painted Past" exhibit displayed an oil on canvas portrait of Governor Samuel Jordan Kirkwood, 1813-1894, painted by John Newton Parks in 1877. Kirkwood was Governor during most of the Civil War and worked hard to supply the Union Army with both men and supplies.

At the time of his death on January 25, 1925, Parks was a resident of Marshalltown. He was buried at Hazelwood Cemetery.