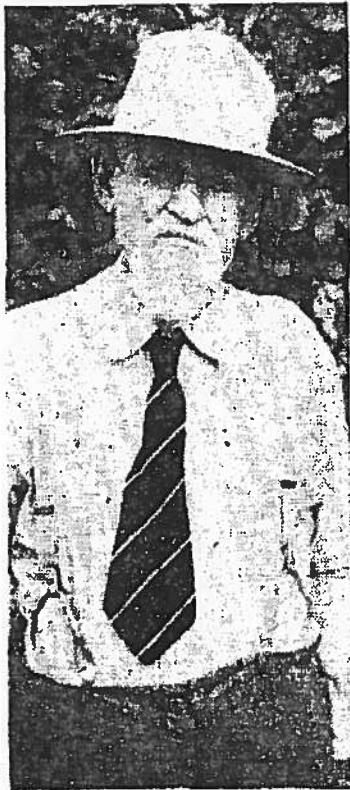


SEPTEMBER 30, 1940

DIED QUIETLY AT HIS HOME 4 P. M. SUNDAY

He Served Union



CHARLES VAN DOREN

Was Grinnell's Last Resident Civil War Veteran.

Charles Van Doren, Grinnell's last resident veteran of the Civil War, died at his home Sunday afternoon at 4:00 o'clock. He had celebrated his 95th birthday on Sept. 13.

Funeral services will be held at Mr. Van Doren's home on East street at 2:30 p. m. Wednesday.

Never was there a more conscientious patriot than Mr. Van Doren. He was extremely proud of the small part he was privileged to play in saving the Union and always felt that its preservation was of even greater importance than emancipation of the slaves.

Remained Active.

Remarkably active for one of such advanced years, Mr. Van Doren had enjoyed good health until the past summer. Even during the past few months he was able to get around and work for brief periods in his garden, which was always a source of pride to him.

He suffered from hardening of the arteries and had been bed-fast since last Tuesday. However, he remained in good spirits and members of his family did not consider his condition serious. His son, Herbert, was with him when death quietly overtook him.

Born in Illinois.

Born in Delphi, Jersey county, Illinois, on Sept. 13, 1845, he was the son of Abraham and Delia Jack Van Doren. He spent most of his early life in Illinois and began farming for himself near Clinton, in that state, shortly after the Civil War.

He enlisted in Co. B, 155th Illinois Infantry Volunteers in February of 1865 and was discharged from service in September of that year.

In 1873 he abandoned farming and for several years traveled as a map salesman for Rand & McNally. He moved to Pella town, in February of 1879 and the following April was united in marriage with Polly Lorena Yocum. He moved to Grinnell in the early 1920's.

Three Children.

Three children were born to this union. Two daughters, Loveda and Edna, preceded him in death. His son, Herbert, lived with him here in Grinnell. Mrs. Van Doren died in February, 1936.

Mr. Van Doren's father became well acquainted with Abraham Lincoln when the family lived for several years in Sangamon county, Illinois. One of Charles Van Doren's fondest memories was of a time, just before his 13th birthday, when he had the privilege of shaking Lincoln's hand.

Father Knew Lincoln.

This incident is told in Mr. Van Doren's own words in papers he left:

"It was in the summer of 1858 that Abraham Lincoln came to Clinton (Illinois) to make a great political speech. I went with my father, and we stood near the platform. I remember how Mr. Lincoln looked at that time. He mentioned the trouble they were having in Kansas and talked about slavery and the Union and the liberties of the people.

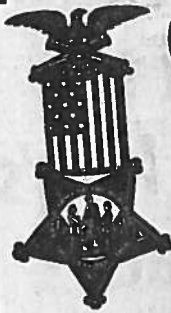
Shook Lincoln's Hand.

"At the end of his speech he stepped to the rail and reached over and shook hands with my father. He said, 'Mr. Lincoln, this is my boy hCarley,' and I reached up my hand and shook hands with Abraham Lincoln."

Besides his son, Mr. Van Doren is survived by four grandchildren, Charles M. Van Doren of Grinnell, Mrs. W. N. York, Herbert Klages and Earl Klages, all of Des Moines; and two great grandchildren, Romaine and Marilyn York of Des Moines.

Grinnell's only remaining Civil War veteran, now is Judge T. J. Noll, whose duties as state adjutant of the G. A. R. have kept him in Des Moines the past several years.

61-R 11-13-2014



Grand Army of the Republic

CHARLES VAN DOREN

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:

Charles Van Doren, the son of Abraham and Delila Van Doren, was born Sept. 13, 1845, in Delphi, Jersey County, Ill. He spent his early life in Illinois and enlisted in Company B of the 155th Illinois Infantry in February of 1865. He was discharged in September of that year.

Van Doren was living on a rented farm 12 miles from Clinton with his mother and sister when the President put out another call for volunteers to save the Union. His township's quota was for six men. A meeting was held to decide which six would go, and he volunteered. The service was guarding block houses on the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad all the way from Nashville to Duck River.

Van Doren, in a 1932 newspaper interview in Clinton, Ill., tells of one winter he was feeding 1,600 sheep on his nearby farm. On New Year's Eve, which he recalled as being the coldest night, 300 of the sheep died in a storm. He worked all night and the next day trying to get the remainder into shelter.

Van Doren's father became well acquainted with Abraham Lincoln when the family lived in Sangamon County, Ill. One of Van Doren's fondest memories was the summer of 1858 when Lincoln came to Clinton, Ill., to make a political speech. Van Doren attended with his father

and stood near the platform. He had the privilege of shaking Lincoln's hand that day.

Van Doren became a commercial traveler, selling wall maps and charts, and he later sold clothes. Working as district agent to sell those popular maps after the civil war, his travels brought him to Pella. In 1878 he and his mother and sister all moved to

Pella.

In April of 1879 Charles Van Doren married Polly Yocum. They became the parents of three children, Loveda, Edna and Herbert.

The family moved to Grinnell in the early 1920s and lived at 733 East St. and later at 1027 Broad St.

In 1934 Van Doren celebrated his 89th birthday. As a birthday

present to himself and to test his strength, he sawed a cord of wood and threw it in the basement. A newspaper reporter observing the project felt it was a good task for anybody and especially for a man of his age. The Daughters of Veterans brought him a nice birthday cake and a bouquet of flowers as their reminder of the day and of his years. He was one of two veterans of the Civil War still in the community.

Van Doren died on Sept. 29, 1940, at the age of 95. He was buried at Hazelwood Cemetery. His death left T. J. Noll as the only remaining Civil War Veteran still living in Grinnell.

