

John J. Mincer

Beginning in his boyhood John J. Mincer, of Grinnell, acquired habits of application and self-reliance. He worked for a number of years for others, but since 1900 has been managing a business on his own, and has shown an aptitude, which has produced gratifying financial returns. He was born in Mahaska County, Iowa, February 19, 1863, a son of Jacob and Martha(Marsh) Mincer. The father was a native of Richmond, Virginia, and the mother of Cincinnati, Ohio. About 1845 they started west, having decided to make their home in Iowa. There was no bridge across the Mississippi River at Burlington at that time, and they were obliged to cross the river by boat. After a short stop in Monroe County, they took up their permanent abode in Mahaska County, where Mr. Mincer located on government land. His death occurred February 12, 1873, the beloved wife and mother having died three years earlier.

John J. Mincer was reared on the home farm and acquired his early education in the district schools of the neighborhood. In January 1874, being then less than twelve years of age, he came to Grinnell, and since that time, has made his own way in the world. For several years he worked at whatsoever he could find to do, but after arriving at the age of sixteen years, he entered the employ of A.W. Thayer, who was in the restaurant business, and continued with him for two years. He then transferred his allegiance to George M. Christian of the Chapin House, then the principal hostelry of the town. After three years experience at the hotel, he worked for a year in the factory of Craver and Steele. About this time H.W. Spaulding began in the buggy manufacturing business, and Mr. Mincer secured employment in the shops of this concern, continuing there for ten years. He then bought a restaurant in Grinnell, and for the first time, entered business upon his own account, being very successful, and giving employment to eleven persons. However, on February 13, 1903, he opened a pool and billiard hall on Fourth Avenue. But on account of the difficulty in securing employees at the restaurant, he closed out that branch of his business and opened up a pool hall in a building at No. 827 Main Street. On July 17, 1905, he removed his business from Fourth Avenue to 922 Main Street where he has one of the most modern and best conducted halls in central Iowa. At one time he had a hall in Montezuma, but has sold out there, and for some time was in charge of the similar establishment in Malcom. He never drinks, smokes, or chews, and has endeavored to maintain a pool and billiard business along strictly business lines, and in the opinion of his friends, he has succeeded admirably in doing so.

On the 14th day of October, 1884, Mr. Mincer was united in marriage to Miss Flora Baird, of Grinnell. Both he and his estimable wife are members of the Episcopal church, and he is an active supporter of all movements designed to promote the prosperity of the city. Politically Mr. Mincer is in sympathy with the democratic party, but is liberal in his views, and in local affairs is not restricted by party lines in voting. No man has a wider acquaintance in this section of the state and by his genial and pleasing address he has made a host of friends.

JOHN MINCER

Dies Monday

10-25-1935

**Funeral Services for Well Known
Restaurant Man Wednesday
Afternoon at 2 O'clock**

After many months of failing health John Mincer, for many years a resident of Grinnell, passed away at 3 o'clock Monday morning, aged 69 years. Funeral services will be held Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock from the old home at 505 Sixth Ave., and burial will be in Hazelwood.

Mr. Mincer was born in Brownstown, Iowa, in 1863 and came to Grinnell while a young boy. In 1884 he was united in marriage to Flora Luella Baird and to this union one daughter was born, Mrs. Earl McFarland who lives in this city. Mr. Mincer has been engaged in the cafe and billiard business in Grinnell for many years and was an extensive property owner. Surviving him besides his wife, daughter and granddaughter, Darlene Mae Southern, are two brothers and two sisters, David Mincer of Sacramento, California, who visited here this summer, William Mincer of Spencer, Sinda Purington of Spencer and Mrs. Dora Bellis of Waterloo.