John Spencer

b. 1867? in Jacksonville, IL where he also died, May 7, 1921

Live in Grinnell, Iowa from approximately 1905 through 1920.

Wife's name was Elizabeth (maiden name unknown).

From the (IOWA) BYSTANDER, July 21, 1905

JOHN SPENCER.

There is probably no man in all Iowa who is less known than Mr. John Spencer of Grinnell and who is doing more of the substantial growth and development of race and its independence. He is a cement and brick contractor and has been from infancy up. His father before him has built more cement walks, tunnel arches, sewers and cement and stone approaches for railroad companies in Jacksonville, Ill., than any other man, white or black, for forty years. His father has worked in Jacksonville. He was also a member of the city council during the time William J. Bryan was in the council. His father and William's father, Judge Bryan, are personal friends. Mr. Spencer had four boys, who all learned the cement trade, one in Jacksonville and the other two twin brothers, are out in Grinnell working with their brother John. He has been in Iowa for ten years and was awarded the whole of the city sidewalk contract of Grinnell, his bid being one-tenth per cent lower. His bond was $5,000. He runs two gangs of men regular, about six to eight in each gang, all white but four. He has secured work in nearly every town in a radius of 100 miles of Grinnell. He is a very busy man, and now has enough work to last till November. He has dutiful and industrious wife and two children, a young lady about 18, who is his stenographer and bookkeeper and stays in the downtown office; a lad of 11 years. This man is highly respected and is doing something for his race. He belongs to the Masonic lodge and is S. W. of the Marshalltown lodge. We will no doubt hear of this man in the financial world. He is now bidding on work in Osceola and Des Moines. Each of his crews has a first class equipment and good teams.

Obituary

JACKSONVILLE (Illinois) DAILY JOURNAL

May 8, 1921

John Spencer passed away at his home of his brother, Sherman Spencer, 420 South Prairie street at 8:15 o'clock Saturday night.

Descendent was the son of David and Frances Spencer and was born in this city in 1854 and grey toมาตรฐาน here.

Spencer was one of the men who removed to Jacksonville many years that since he has been home, most of the time spent in Grinnell.

He returned to Jacksonville a month ago because of failing health.

He is survived by his widow and one daughter, Mrs. Walden of Grinnell and one son, Ralph Spencer of Mason City, Iowa. His widow and daughter were with him when the end came.

He also leaves the following brothers and sisters, Sherman Spencer, Mrs. Bovie McDaniel and Mrs. Emma Broun of Jacksonville, Mrs. Edna Taylor, Morris and Harvey Spencer of Mason City, Iowa, Mrs. Victoria Brown and Mrs. Hattie Beacham of Chicago.

Mr. Spencer was a member of Curtis Lodge No. 26 Masons of Marshalltown, Iowa, and was a 32nd degree mason. He was a man highly regarded by all who knew him.

No arrangements for the funeral have been made.