

James Francis Adkins

Another of the few Civil War veterans in this community answered the last bugle call Saturday morning at five o'clock in the passing of "France" Adkins, one of the pioneers of Jasper County. Mr. Adkins had been in ill health for the past year but was able to go about his daily duties. On Wednesday last, he was apparently as well as usual and was taking advantage of the warm autumn day in preparing his household for winter. It was a busy, fruitful day. But on Thursday morning about two o'clock he was suddenly stricken with paralysis, immediately becoming unconscious and remaining so until his death.

Funeral services were conducted from the home yesterday afternoon by Rev. R. L. Keeton.

Pallbearers were: Chris Reutter, Henry Ahrens, Harry Crowder, Geo. Smith, Dwight Pearce, and W. C. Smith. Honorary bearers were his comrades of the G. A. R. Those from a distance to attend the services were Mrs. C. C. Rice of Selby, S. Dak., Lee Adkins of Des Moines. Interment was at Hazelwood.

James Francis Adkins, son of Rachel Williams and Benjamin Adkins, and the eldest of a family of nine children, was born July 30, 1844 near Monticello, Wayne Co., Kentucky. He sprang from a sturdy American pioneer family. His grandfather, Benjamin Adkins, and his wife, Katie Stocksall, and his sisters were among the first settlers of Kentucky, making the long journey from North Carolina with one of the Daniel Boone parties. Two of his grandfather's sisters were killed by the Indians on this journey.

Mr. Adkins' early life was spent on the farm with his parents. At the age of 18 he enlisted with Co. D., 30th

Kentucky Mounted Infantry of the Union Army and remained in service until the end of the war. Soon after these turbulent days, he came to Iowa about August 25, 1865. A few relatives had preceded him in emigrating to the north. The following fall he made the long journey back to Kentucky for his bride, Sidney Jane Parmley, to whom he was married on October 7, 1866. They came back to Iowa to make their home and settled near Kellogg. Nine children were born to this union, eight of whom are living. They are: Mrs. Mary Alice Rice of Selby, S. Dak., Mrs. Florence A. Dearing of Walthalla, N. Dak., William M., Robert H., Fred M., Dr. Louis M., all of Grinnell, Mrs. Gertrude Reutter of Malcom and Mrs. Geneva Ahrens of Grinnell. The ninth child, now deceased, was Mrs. Alta A. Matteson.

Later, he moved with his family to the farm now owned by Henry Ahrens three miles west of town, living there for 29 years. In the fall of 1905 they went to California where they spent the winter and upon their return moved to Grinnell where he has lived until his death, Saturday, September 27, 1924.

On October 7, 1916, Mr. and Mrs. Adkins celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. On this day of happy memories, he had with him his aged mother, Mrs. Rachel Adkins who preceded him in death only by a few months, all his living children and their families together with the Civil War veterans and their wives.