

The Grinnell Herald

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Grinnell, Iowa, Tuesday, Jan. 22, 1907.

OBITUARY.

WILLIAM BEATON.

Mr. William Beaton was born in St. Andrews, Canada East, Feb 10, 1829, of Scotch parentage. He began to learn the cabinet maker's trade at nine years of age, but somewhat later entered a piano and organ factory, learning every detail of the construction of those instruments.

At twenty he entered Western Reserve College in Hudson, O. His skill as a vocalist and a violinist placed him in charge of the college, the Congregational and the Episcopal choirs, of a glee club of one hundred and thirty-two voices, of chorus classes, and of all college music during his six years at Hudson.

He was married to Miss Loretta M. Hubbard, of Cleveland, C., June 21, 1855 and, influenced by Henry M. Hamilton, a fellow student in college, came to Grinnell eight days later. Here his chief business at first was cabinet making and carpentry, and the superintendency of the Grinnell schools from 1859 until he joined the Band of the 14th Iowa Infantry during the Civil war. Since leaving the army his chief business has been piano-tuning. It was a pastime more than as a business that he conducted the Congregational choir during ten or twelve of his first years here, and taught vocal and violin music during the evenings. The early settlers, with great pleasure, remember his quartette (for he had a rare tenor voice), and his concerts by means of which he secured the first organ for the church which it ever owned.

His invariable affability and his generous kindness in assisting them gave him great influence over the young men, especially while he was their only teacher here in music. He loved the town and was always glad to influence students to come to the college, or families to remove to the town. Some of our best citizens belong in this list. His friends were limited only by the number of his acquaintances.

Mr. Beaton and his first wife joined the Congregational church here soon after their arrival. At her death, Jan'y 1st, 1887, they had buried two young sons, and had two living daughters, both of whom survive them. They are Mrs. O. W. Park, and Miss Isabella Beaton, teacher in the Cleveland School of Music.

Mr. Beaton's second wife (formerly Mrs. Maggie Tichnor) lived only a few years after their marriage. In 1893

he married Miss M. Ella Asay of Philadelphia, who survives him.

His funeral was conducted by Prof L. F. Parker, at his late home, on Sunday, the 20th inst., and at Hazelwood by the Masonic Lodge of which he was a member.

OBITUARY
W.M. BEATON

William Beaton was born of Scotch parentage, at St. Andrews, Canada East Feb. 10th, 1829. He was apprenticed at the age of nine years to a cabinet maker. Five years later he entered an organ factory and mastered with the most absolute thoroughness every detail of the structure of pianos and organs.

In 1849 he went to Hudson, Ohio, where he studied six years in Western Reserve College. While there besides maintaining a brilliant record in college work and becoming a member of the Greek letter fraternities, he conducted the Handel Society of the college, directed the Commencement and Exhibition concerts, trained a glee club of 132 voices and conducted a number of singing schools. During the entire six years he was chorister of the Congregational and Episcopal churches, their services being held at different hours.

He was married in 1855 to Miss Loretta M. Hubbard of Cleveland, Ohio. Influenced by Mr. Henry M. Hamilton, a fellow student at Western Reserve and one of the founders of Grinnell, Mr. Beaton came to Grinnell, June 29th, 1855. Both Mr. Beaton and his wife joined the Congregational church and he took charge of the Congregational choir as chorister. Mr. Beaton established the first singing school in Grinnell, organized and directed the Grinnell orchestra and a quartette and gave numerous concerts bringing out oratorios and other extended works. He had a tenor voice of rare timber and quality and won marked success as a soloist. During the early years of Grinnell he followed the carpenter's trade.

For nearly three years, 1859, 1860, and until his enlistment in the 4th Iowa Infantry he was principal of the Grinnell public school.

the years he taught music in the Iowa Conservatory of Music.

His occupation for the last fifty years was that of piano tuner. At the death of his first wife Jan. 1st 1887, they had buried two young sons, William Hubbard and Henry Adam, and had two daughters, both of whom survive them, Mrs. O. W. Park and Miss Isabelle Beaton, a teacher in the Cleveland school of music at Cleveland, Ohio.

Mr. Beaton's second wife, formerly Mrs. Maggie Tichnor lived only a few years after their marriage. In 1893 he married Miss Ella M Asay, of Philadelphia, who survives him. He was known for the sterling uprightness and perfect purity of his character, the genial brightness of his disposition and his spirit, of helpfulness towards every one with whom he came in contact. His funeral was conducted by Prof. L. F. Parker at the home and by the members of the Masonic lodge at the cemetery.