

BEELER. JOHN S. b. Ma:
Co., Ia. 1845, one of a family of
children of Fred and Nancy (Dol-
larhde) Beeler. They were mar-
ried 1836 in Ind. and 1837 came to
Ia., living first at Muscatine. In
1871 Mr. Beeler m. Ellen C. Beeler;
dau. of Geo. M. and Nancy (Car-
penter) Beeler. 10 chil.; Ira C.;
Ora F.; Geo. F.; May (Mrs. L. A.
Winters); Nancy A. (Mrs. Joe
Bradley); Mary (Mrs. E. S. Morri-
son); John C.; Clark C.; Janie
(Mrs. John Reed) and Clara.

JPI 359 POP 302

JOHNS BEELER, one of the shrewdest business men and wealthiest citizens of Washington Township, Poweshiek County, is one of the largest farmers and stock-raisers of the district. He is a native son of Iowa, born in Linn County, September 13, 1845, and a son of Fred Beeler, a native of Virginia, whose birth occurred February 28, 1814. In Colonial days three brothers of the family emigrated from Germany and made a settlement in Pennsylvania, from which State their descendants scattered to various parts of the Union. Our subject's paternal grandfather was born and reared to manhood in Virginia, where he had an extensive

plantation. In 1823 he removed to a place near Indianapolis, Ind., making the journey with teams. The reason for his deserting his native State was partly on account of being so frequently molested by the Indians. He developed a good farm and was a successful business man. During the War of 1812, he was in active service and rose to the rank of an officer. He was a Democrat and a member of the Baptist Church, in the faith of which he died at a ripe old age.

In 1834 our subject's father removed to Iowa and settled in Muscatine County, working for two years on the river. He then settled in Linn County on Government land, helped to organize the county, and assisted in building the first house, which was made of logs, in Cedar Rapids. He was among the first settlers, and for many years his nearest white neighbor lived a distance of six miles from his home. Indians were very numerous and kept the families of the pioneers in a state of terror for fear of treachery and a general uprising among them. Mr. Beeler owned twelve hundred acres at one time, but afterward disposed of a considerable portion. He is still living on the same farm on which he originally located in Linn County.

Our subject's mother, who before her marriage was Nancy Dollarhide, was born in Indiana in 1821, and of her sixteen children who grew to mature years fourteen are now living, namely: Sarah, Eliza, Melissa, Fred, John, Mary, Lewis, Ellen, Nancy, Jones, George, Emma, Alice, Douglas, Charles and William, eight sons and eight daughters. Both parents are members of the Methodist Church and are passing their declining years in peace and in the enjoyment of an abundant competency.

On the old homestead which was his birthplace John S. Beeler was reared to manhood. He attended the typical pioneer log schoolhouse of those early days, which was run on the subscription plan. On reaching his majority he came to this township, where he engaged in farming. On January 22, 1871, he married Ellen Beeler. They have ten children, all of whom are living: Ira, Ora, George, May, Nancy, Mary, Cleveland, Clark, Janie and Clara.

On the farm where our subject settled no improvements had been made, but he has steadily year by year brought his land under cultivation and increased the boundaries of his farm, which now comprises seven hundred and eighty-nine acres. He did not have money enough to pay for a night's lodging when he came here in 1866, and since then has worked his way steadily upward to the high position he holds in the community. He feeds and raises numbers of cattle, hogs and horses, particularly Normans and Clydesdales. He is a member of the Friends' Church and in politics is a Democrat. He has served his township as Trustee for four terms, and for a number of years has been Treasurer of the School Board. He is a good business man and has been very wise in his investments. For a great many years he has annually sold and shipped several carloads of cattle.

JOHN S. BEELER.

POP 132

The memory of John S. Beeler, for the past forty-five years a resident of Poweshiek county, carries him back still further to the pioneer days of Iowa, when a large part of this great state was yet open prairie and little was known as to its resources.

He was born at Marion, Iowa, September 13, 1845, and was a member of a family of sixteen children—eight sons and eight daughters—of Fred and Nancy (Dollarhide) Beeler, the former of whom was a native of West Virginia and the latter of Indiana. They were married in 1836 at Indianapolis, and in 1837 came to Iowa and lived for several years at Muscatine, where the father engaged in work in connection with the river traffic. From that place he moved to Linn county, Iowa, and took up land at Marion, being one of the early settlers of that section. The Indians were still wandering at large through the country when he arrived in Linn county and he maintained with them the most friendly relations, often trading horses with his visitors. This was a favorite diversion of the early days. He was a man of good business ability and a large landowner, possessing one thousand acres of good Linn county land. In politics he gave his support to the democratic party, and in religious belief affiliated with the Methodist church, of which he was deacon and trustee. He took a great interest in education and was a valued member of the school board. A man of many sterling characteristics, he was greatly respected wherever he was known. He died February 12, 1895, having then reached the age of eighty-one years. Mrs. Beeler was called away five years later.

John S. Beeler, of this review, received his early education in the public schools of Marion, Iowa, and also had the advantage of attendance at the high school in the same town. He was reared under the favorable conditions of farm life, and even as a boy displayed remarkable strength and ability in his work. One day, in a few hours, he split eighty-five railroad ties. He followed this occupation for twenty-seven days and then in December, 1866, arrived in Poweshiek county and went to work on shares under his uncle, George M. Beeler. In 1868 his father gave him a farm in Linn county, which he soon afterward disposed of, and settled on productive land in Poweshiek county where he has since continued. He is now the owner of six hundred acres, and his wife owns sixty-eight acres in this county. He also owns three hundred and forty acres in Missouri. He has for thirty-five years been a large raiser and feeder of stock, devoting his attention

especially to Hereford cattle and the breeding of Percheron horses, in which he has attained an enviable reputation.

On the 22d of January, 1871, Mr. Beeler was united in marriage to Miss Ellen C. Beeler, a daughter of George M. and Nancy (Carpenter) Beeler, and of this union ten children have been born, namely: Ira C., who is now living in Washington township; Ora F., who lives at Hugo, Colorado; George F., of Pleasant township; May, who became the wife of L. A. Winters, of Jacob, Iowa; Nancy A., who married Joe H. Bradley, of Missouri; Mary, who married E. S. Morrison, a business man of Grinnell; John Cleveland; Louis Clark, now engaged in farming in Sugar Creek township; Janie, who married John Reed, of Pleasant township; and Clara, who is now a student in the Grinnell high school.

Politically Mr. Beeler gives his allegiance to the democratic party. He has been a candidate for member of the lower house of the state legislature at two different elections but, his party being in the minority, he was unsuccessful and met with defeat. In religious belief he adheres to the faith of the Society of Friends and through life he has aimed to be guided by the teachings of this worthy organization. Fortunate in possessing qualities of mind and heart which are inseparable from honorable manhood, he won the respect of neighbors and acquaintances and for many years has been a tower of strength in the community. He has always been loyal to every trust and has ever been ready to assist in every movement for the upbuilding of the section. It is with pleasure that this record is here given of one of the clear-headed and noble-hearted men of Poweshiek county.



MR. AND MRS. JOHN S. BEELEK

Grinnell Ca

John Beeler Passes On

Stalwart Farmer and Resident of County For Sixty-seven Years Dies Thursday Afternoon

AT THE HOME OF HIS DAUGHTER, MRS. JOHN REID

Mr. Beeler Was Counted One of County's Substantial Men—Was Prominent Democrat

The long and active life of John Sanders Beeler reached its close at 1:15 o'clock Thursday afternoon when death claimed him at the home of his daughter, Mrs. John Reid, with whom he had spent the last months of increasing feebleness and illness. His life had reached far beyond the ordinary span. He had reached the age of 88 years, 7 months and 6 days. Old age had broken his once powerful constitution and for the past six months he had been bed fast. Death was due to pneumonia.

Mr. Beeler was born in Marion, Iowa, Sept. 13, 1845, the son of Frederic and Nancy Dollarhyde Beeler. He came to Poweshiek county when he was twenty one years of age and the remaining sixty seven years of his life were spent entirely in this county. All through his active life he was a farmer and he was counted one of the county's successful and substantial men. A lifelong democrat he was always high in the councils of his party and at one time was a candidate for county treasurer, receiving a large vote which was a tribute to his high standing.

The writer will always remember Mr. Beeler as one of the friendliest of men. His cheery greeting and cordial hand clasp when one met him on the street were full of goodwill and friendliness. News of his death will bring a sense of distinct personal loss to all who knew him.

A Good Life Has Just Ended



JOHN S. BEELER

Mr. Beeler lost his devoted wife a number of years ago, but is survived by four sons, Ira C. of Grinnell, Ora S. of Hugo, Colorado, and George and Clark, both of Grinnell and three daughters, Mrs. J. H. Bradley of Lineus, Mo., Mrs. Ed Morrison of Charles City, Ill., and Mrs. John Reid of Grinnell; also by one sister, Mrs. Addie Stookey of Cedar Rapids and two brothers, Lou and Will, both of Mankato, Kansas. There are also twenty-six grand children and ten great grandchildren. Two daughters, Mrs. Ida Windhurst and Mrs. Clara B. Sarych and one son, John Cleveland Beeler, preceded their father in death.

Funeral services will be held at 2:30 o'clock Sunday afternoon from the Methodist church.

JOHN BEELER HELD SUNDAY

Many Attend Services Sunday Afternoon At Methodist Church.

Funeral services for the late John S. Beeler, well known and highly respected citizen of Grinnell, were held Sunday afternoon from the Methodist church, with hundreds of friends and relatives in attendance. Rev. H. S. Wilkinson officiated and burial was in Hazelwood cemetery.

The honorary pallbearers were George Ross, E. H. Bump, D. M. Sylvester, Ansel Moxley, W. H. Alley and A. F. Swaney. Acting pallbearers were L. P. Jordan, Norman Pilgrim, Dean Eichhorn, T. S. Mason, James Marsden and George C. Murray.

Relatives from a distance were Mrs. Addie Stookley and son Conrad, Mrs. Lucille Leatherberry and daughter Louise from Cedar Rapids, L. A. Windhurst and daughter, Mrs. George Vagstad of Claremont, Minn. One son and two daughters, Mrs. Bradley and Mrs. Morrison were unable to be present.

April 15, OBITUARY 1934

The long and active life of John Sanders Beeler reached its close at 1:15 o'clock Thursday afternoon when death claimed him at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Jane Reid with whom he had spent the last months of increasing feebleness and illness. His life had reached far beyond the ordinary span. He had reached the age of 88 years, 7 months and 6 days. Old age had broken his once powerful constitution and for the past six months he had been bedfast. Death was due to pneumonia. Mr. Beeler was born in Marion, Iowa, Sept. 13, 1845 the son of Frederic and Nancy Dollarhyde Beeler. He received his early education in the public schools of Marion and attended High school in the same town. As a boy he displayed remarkable strength and ability in his work.

When he was twenty-one years of age he came to Poweshiek County and began working with his uncle George M. Beeler. The remaining sixty-seven years of his life were spent entirely in this county. Mr. Beeler was converted early in life and united with the Friends church in Sugar Creek.

On January 22nd 1871 he was united in marriage to Ellen C. Beeler, daughter of George and Nancy Carpenter Beeler. To this union ten children were born. Those surviving are Ira C., George F., L. Clark all of Grinnell and Ora F. of Hugo Colorado. Mrs. Jane Reid of Grinnell. Mrs. Nancy Bradley of Linneus, Missouri, Mrs. Mary Morrison of St. Charles, Illinois. Two daughters, Mrs. Ida Windhurst and Mrs. Clara Sarych and one son John C. preceded their father in death. Mr. Beeler lost his devoted wife a number of years ago. One sister, Mrs. Addie Stookey of Cedar Rapids and two brothers, Lou and Will both of Manukato, Kansas, along with twenty-six grandchildren and thirteen great grandchildren remain to mourn his passing.

Fortunate in possessing qualities of mind and heart which are inseparable from honorable manhood, he won the respect of neighbors and acquaintance and for many years has been a tower of strength in the community.

CARD OF THANKS

We wish to express our deep appreciation and thanks to the many friends for their manifold kindness shown to our father, John S. Beeler, during his last illness.

The Children

John S. Beeler 9-3-1929 Came By Sleigh

Some of the old settlers came by ox team and covered wagon and some in wagons drawn by horses, but John S. Beeler travelled by sleigh when he came to Blue Point in February, 1867.

The writer recommends that you hunt up Mr. Beeler and hear from his own lips the story of that sleigh ride from Linn county, how he had to wait at Amana for the ice to harden, how later his sleigh broke down and of his belated arrival in the new country at night.

He says that a little trunk about the size of a suit case held all his worldly possessions when he left his father's home in Linn county to seek his fortune by farming for his uncle in Poweshiek county.

He considered moving on to take up a claim in Pocahontas county, but the grasshoppers ate up the crops and drove out the settlers there in the late sixties. So Mr. Beeler used the hard earned money he got by working for his uncle to buy land at Blue Point for \$7.50 an acre instead of going to Pocahontas county for a claim. Later he paid \$10 and \$14 for other land around Blue Point.

John S. Beeler Early Settler

Perhaps the oldest person born in Iowa in this vicinity is John S. Beeler. Mr. Beeler was born at Marion, Iowa, September 13, 1845, and came to Washington township in 1866. He is just past eighty-four years old. He has been selected by those in charge of the pageant to be used as a type of an early settler in Iowa. His tall, commanding form, vigorous health and age added to the fact that he has been an estimable citizen, a man of energy and industry, make him especially suitable to hold this honor. He will appear in the pageant as one of those who have helped make Iowa what it is industrially, religiously, commercially and educationally.

JOHN S. BEELER OLD RESIDENT PASSES AWAY

Died This Afternoon At
The Home of His
Daughter.

April 13, 1928
John S. Beeler died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. John Reed on Broad street this afternoon at 1:15. He had been in very poor health for several months. Funeral arrangements have not been made at the hour of going to press.

John S. Eeller was born in Marion, Iowa, and came to this county sixty-five years ago. He was 88 years, 7 months and 6 days old. He leaves to mourn his loss a sister, Mrs. Addie Stooke of Cedar Rapids, and two brothers, Louis and Will of Mankato, Kansas. His children living are Ira C. Beeler, Grinnell; Ora S., Hugo, Col; George and Clark of Grinnell; Mrs. J. H. Bradley of Linens, Mo.; Mrs. Ed. Morrison, Charles City, Ills.; Mrs. John Reed of Grinnell. ~~Two daughters~~ and one son deceased. Twenty-six grand children and ten great grand children are living.

Mr. Beeler was a very active man. He was loved by everyone and he always had something kindly to say to you. He retired from the farm some years ago.