

Long And Active 5-15-1934 Life Is Ended

The long and active life of George Brown, a pioneer of this vicinity came to a close at 11 p. m., May 9, 1934, after an illness of two months.

His life had reached far beyond the ordinary span; 97 years, two months and five days.

George Brown was born in Somersetshire, England, in 1837, a son of George and Susana Baker Brown of the same place. His father was born March 8, 1800, and died at the age of 94, his mother passing away at the age of 34. Both were consistent members of the church of England.

Mr. Brown was educated in the schools of England and clerked in a store in London the last year of his stay in England.

When he was 18 years old he embarked on a vessel from the port of Bristol, bound for America. He settled near Kenosha, Wis., where he remained nearly two years. He came to Iowa in 1857, when the state was thinly settled, to make his home.

Mr. Brown bought land in Washington township in 1864, where he lived until four years ago this summer. Since that time he has made his home with his children, Fred, Edwin, Agnes and Cornelia, on west Fourth avenue.

There he was happy and contented, busying himself with the things he could do. He was always pleased to visit with any of his children and friends. He greatly enjoyed his papers, read many books, and kept in touch with the events of the times and encouraging things for good.

March 4, 1861, he was married to Anne Amelia Howell, who passed away March 25, 1900. Nine children were born to them, all of whom are living and all but the eldest daughter are living in this vicinity. All but Mrs. Mead, who lives in Manchester, Ia., and who was here two weeks ago, were at his bedside when he died.

In March, 1861, he joined the Congregational church, being the 186th member to join that church, where he was a regular attendant for some time.

Besides his nine children: Mrs.

A. E. Mead of Manchester, Ia., Agnes A., Frederick, G., Alberta E., Edwin S., Cornelia L., Mabel G., Frank A., and Harry A., Mr. Brown leaves to mourn his loss eight grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Those from out of town attending the services were his eldest daughter, Mrs. A. E. Mead and son, Austin, a nephew, Arthur Brown, a niece, Jennie Brown, and son, Seth, Mrs. Ella Brownell of California, a niece, and Dorothy Brown, who is attending college at Ames.

Funeral services were held Friday afternoon from the Westfield church, conducted by Rev. Robert Inglis. Music was furnished by Westfield quartet, composed of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Lord and Mr.

and Mrs. Harvey Howell, accompanied by Ellen Howell. The songs were, "Lead Kindly Light," and "Going Down the Valley." Pallbearers were Mr. Brown's four sons and two sons-in-law.

GEORGE BROWN, a prominent and successful farmer, has reached his present position of prosperity through his honest industry and good management of his business affairs. He was born in Somersetshire, England, March 4, 1837, and is a son of George Brown, a native of the same place. The latter's birth occurred March 8, 1800, and, though consequently ninety-three years of age, he is still engaged in farming in his native land. The mother of our subject, who was before her marriage Miss Susan Baker, died when he was quite young. Of her eight children, seven grew to maturity and are still living, five sons in Iowa, and two daughters in England. She was called from this life on the 24th of March, 1843, at the age of thirty four years. She was a consistent member of the Church of England, as is also our subject's father. The latter was afterward remarried, and reared a family of eight children by this union, one of this group having died

in infancy. The others are all living, one son and two daughters in America, the other three sons and one daughter in England.

George Brown was reared to farm life and educated in the common schools. In 1855 he embarked on a vessel from the port of Bristol bound for America, leaving his native shores May 15. He was for three weeks tossed to and fro upon the bosom of the Atlantic, and for seventy-two hours was in a terrible storm, but finally landed safely in America and settled near Kenosha, Wis., where he remained nearly two years, working one winter in the lumber regions of Michigan. On October 12, 1857, he first set foot in Washington Township, where an uncle and brother of his had entered land. Our subject purchased seventy-five acres of land, which had upon it a log cabin and of it a few acres had been cleared. March 24, 1861, Mr. Brown was united in marriage with Anna A. Howell, a native of Somersetshire, England, her birth having occurred February 5, 1842. With her parents she came to America in 1853, and resided in Kenosha, Wis., for seven years, afterward removing to this neighborhood in 1860. Their nine children are all living and are as follows: Susan H., now Mrs. A. E. Mead, who was formerly a school teacher; Agnes A., now Mrs. George Whitney, who is a dressmaker; Frederick G.; Alberta E., a successful school teacher; Edwin S., Cornelia L., Mabel G., Frank A. and Harry A.

Mr. Brown and sons are now the owners of four hundred and forty-six acres of valuable farm land, which is divided into three farms, two of which lie in Jasper County. He has made nearly all the improvements on his home farm, and added forty acres to it, and has achieved his success through honest hard work. He formerly was obliged to go to Iowa City by team, a distance of seventy odd miles, to dispose of his farm products, and on one occasion nearly froze to death on the great open prairie east of Grinnell. He also hauled wheat to Ottumwa and Oskaloosa, having to ford several large streams on the way. Once while on a trip to Oskaloosa, crossing Skunk River with a load of wheat in the month of March, in driving up the approach of the bridge, which was submerged by water, he drove too near one side and the wheat

was in great danger of getting wet. He was compelled to transfer the grain to another wagon, and while doing so stood in water waist-deep; a cold northwest wind was blowing and ice was forming at the time. He was, however, of strong constitution and suffered none from exposure.

Mr. Brown is now engaged in mixed farming, raising grain, cattle, hogs and horses. In 1864 he erected a neat frame dwelling, and twelve years later a substantial barn was built. In 1879 he remodeled his house, which is now a neat, convenient and commodious dwelling. Our subject cast his first vote for Abraham Lincoln in November, 1860, and has since, with one exception, supported the nominees of the Republican party. His wife was a successful teacher and is a lady of refinement and culture. Both she and her husband are widely and favorably known, and have drawn to them many warm friends by their worthy qualities.