

JOHN BROWN

GONE TO HIS REST

Dec. 10. John Brown, Esq., Forty-five years a Resident of This Place.

Fewer is steadily growing the number who have been residents of this place almost since the building of the town. But a very small number who came here in 1854 still live. Among those few are the members of Uncle Johnny Brown's family who came here in 1854, by ox team, from Kenosha, Wis. For forty-five years since he came here with his family, in 1854, until his death in Minneapolis, Friday, Mr. Brown has been a citizen of this community. Probably none of our people have led a more active life. None certainly have been better known or more highly esteemed than he. In business as in private life his dealings have been the soul of honor. He settled first in Washington Twp. on the farm now owned by his son J. G. Brown. In the sixties he located in Grinnell and went into business. It seemed that everything he did prospered, and he was soon numbered among the really substantial men of the community. It is a pleasant thing to his sons and daughters to know that all have a kindly word for him, as a man of honor, of honesty of a kind heart and high motives.

perhaps have been more blessed in his family relations. He lived to see his children grown into maturity, and to settle down near him, among the most respected of all our people, a privilege which he thoroughly appreciated.

The funeral was held at the Baptist Church at 2:30 yesterday afternoon conducted by Prof. Buck, assisted by Prof. Parker. The music was by A. C. Hariman, J. C. Walker, Miss Kate Hibbard and Mrs. A. B. Mack.

Wreaths of roses and lilies spread over the casket lent a beautiful fragrance, a type of the spirit that had departed.

The interment was at Westfield cemetery, six grandsons acting as bearers, and performing the last sad office for the honored dead—Lewis, and Walter Brown, George, Seth and Frank Pearce, and Harry Ridley.

The following review of Mr. Brown's life was read by Professor Ruck:

Our deceased neighbor and fellow-citizen, John Brown, was born at Wyke, Champflower, in the parish of Bruton, Somersetshire, England, Sept., 1814, and died at Minneapolis, Minn., June 9, 1899.

grew up to manhood at the place of birth, securing his education for life and business there. He was married June 18, 1836, to Miss Maria J. Grant, who was born in London, April 13, 1813. Her early life was spent in the great city, where she received what education was possible for her.

In this family were born nine children, in the following order of birth: Mrs. Mary J. Brown, Mrs. Matilda G. Pearce, Henry E. Brown, Mrs. Maria A. Ridley, Mrs. Emma J. Mercer and John G. Brown, born in England; Mrs. Eliza J. Mears, Mrs. Alice M. Sawyer, Mrs. Henrietta J. Mears, who died in May, 1893. Twenty-two grandchildren, and three children of grandchildren survive. So three generations are present at the funeral service of the fourth.

In 1862 the family came to this country, going to Kenosha, Wisconsin, where they lived two years upon a rented farm. From that place they came to Grinnell, among the early pioneers, in 1854. They came in the usual conveyance, a covered wagon drawn by oxen. Starting at about the same time, Mr. L. C. Phelps reached the place first, having horses to drive.

The arrival of Mr. Brown and family was announced and welcomed by the ringing of the large bell then on the ground (or nearly so). Such men as Mr. Grinnell, Henry Lawrence, Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Gillette were here to give them a welcome.

They did not stay in the long home, which stood on Broad street near Dr. Wiley's residence, because that building was already full, but Mrs. Phelps had a good supper ready for them and they camped near by. The genuine greeting, like the supper, was warm and hearty.

Mr. Brown soon found some land that suited him, just over the line in Washington township, thinking it desirable to have timber for a shelter and to build with. His first home was a house of logs with more than one story, as there was need of room for children.

The cattle which drew the wagon also drew a plow of huge strength and dimensions, and very soon the seven yoke of oxen were drawing the same plow through the then unbroken prairie and openings, not stopping in its slow but sure progress for hazel brush or even small shrubs, and soon the wilderness began to bloom and become fit for raising food for the early settlers.

From his first coming Mr. Brown became a potent factor in the life of the community. With Mr. Vanderveer, Mr. Roberts and others, he was ready to exchange work in harvest. He brought into the county the first reaper, and with it all the grain was cut. When asked when he could cut the grain of a neighbor that a little over ripe, although his own was ready then to gather, he said, "To-morrow, if you like. It must all be cut."

In the early sixties he came to Grinnell, occupying a house on Main street between Fifth and Sixth avenues.

My own acquaintance began with him as a dealer in meat to supply our table. At different times he owned mills, elevators, dealt in grain and conducted a hotel, while hundreds of acres of land became his property. The younger chil-

Mr. and Mrs. Brown were members of the Episcopal church, and their children were christened in that faith. They contributed largely to sustain worship in the church of their choice here, in building the houses of worship and in entertaining visiting and officiating clergymen and partaking in the public services. In 1874 Mr. and Mrs. Brown, with four of the younger and unmarried children, went back to old England, where they remained two years. It happened to them to go into the same house in which they began their married life together, thirty-eight years before. Pleasant as was their stay there, and attractive as was merry England to them, there were so many children and grandchildren here that they finally bade a last adieu to that country and returned home here. In 1884 Mrs. Brown died. Since then Mr. Brown has lived with his children. The past five years have for the most part been spent with Mrs. Mercer, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, where last Friday his

long earthly life ended. A quarter of a century after the three score years were passed his busy life closed. He outlived his family except a brother a little younger, living in Tripoli, Bremer county, Iowa, James by name. One brother, George, died in 1895, nearly ninety years old.

Mr. Henry Pitman, a son of his sister long ago deceased, is with us.

We do well to cherish his memory. After a year of absence he went back to rest in the old home for two pleasant years. Now at last we bring his body back to place it beside that of the wife in the quiet cemetery so near the home of his choice in this world.

to the friends and neighbors whose kindness and sympathetic assistance was so freely tendered us in our last, loving ministrations to the memory of our father, we return most heartfelt thanks.

- MR. AND MRS. JOHN BROWN,
- MR. AND MRS. C. W. PEARCE,
- MR. AND MRS. H. E. BROWN,
- MR. AND MRS. C. A. RIDLEY,
- MR. AND MRS. T. E. MERCER,
- MR. AND MRS. J. G. BROWN,
- MR. AND MRS. C. E. MEARS.