

PHILANDER

# P. D. BURTON IS CALLED TO REST TUESDAY MORN.

died July 30, 1929

Respected Gentleman  
Dies At Age  
Of 88

A Civil War veteran and one of the oldest settlers of Poweshiek County, who for many years was actively and prominently identified with not only the agricultural, but with also the commercial development of this county was Philander D. Burton, whose death occurred at the Community hospital, early Tuesday morning, shortly before six o'clock. Mr. Burton retained his consciousness to the last. He had been in failing health for the past several months and only a few days ago was taken to the hospital.

Mr. Burton was born at Piketon, Ohio, September 27, 1840. His parents were William and Elizabeth (Grant) Burton. William Burton was a Presbyterian minister and a man of fine mind and more than average power in the pulpit. In 1854, in company with J. B. Grinnell and others he came west, purchasing six hundred and forty acres of land, which he expected to cultivate. He returned to Austintown, Ohio, where he was living at the time, to dispose of his interests, intending to move his family to Iowa. Difficulties in settling up his affairs delayed him and before the family could move to Iowa, Rev. Burton passed away. Some time after Rev. Burton's death the family came to Grinnell, settling on a farm near this city and later moving to town, where Mrs. Burton passed away on April 1, 1885.

P. D. Burton was one of a family of seven children. He was but a lad of eight years when his parents removed from his native town to Ashtabula, Ohio, where he acquired his common school education.

Having attained the age of twenty years when the call for troops came in 1861, he enlisted in the 14th Ohio Battery and went to the front on August 20, that year. He

saw considerable active service and participated in many sharp skirmishes and several notable battles, among the latter being those of Shiloh, Fort Donelson and Corinth. At Holly Springs, Mississippi, he was captured by the rebels, but was paroled and sent to Memphis, Tenn., in November, 1862, and from there to Columbus, Ohio. On Sept. 24, 1863, he was mustered out, having served a little more than two years.

In the spring of 1864, Mr. Burton and his brother, Edward, came to Iowa. However, it was not until 1865 that they located permanently in Poweshiek county, where he and his two brothers, William and Theodore (now Senator Burton from Ohio) engaged in farming in Mal-

com township until 1869.

In 1876, he moved to Montezuma having been elected clerk of the county court in which capacity he served for two terms. He then engaged in the book and drug business for a few years but was forced to give this up owing to ill health. Mr. Burton moved at that time to South Dakota, but returned to Iowa in 1889. At one time, he engaged in the real estate business in Grinnell for five years, and he was also vice-president of the Grinnell Savings Bank for twelve years.

In Madison, Ohio, on February 5, 1868, Philander D. Burton was married to Miss Ruby Merriman, daughter of, Dr. Andrus Merriman. To this union were born four children: Frank M. of Des Moines, Arthur M. of Grinnell; Kate, the wife of Rev. Wiley (deceased) of Jennings Lodge, Oregon; and Grace M., who lives in California. Mrs. Burton, who was a woman of beautiful character and a woman of rare mental qualities, passed away on May 27, 1893.

On the 12th of September, 1903, at Des Moines, Mr. Burton married Miss Theresa W. Wright, of Grinnell, daughter of William Wright.

Mr. Burton was an active member of the Gordon Granger Post, No. 64, G. A. R., of which he was one of the organizers, and was adjutant for sixteen years.

This fine old gentleman lived to see all of his four children make outstanding successes in life. Arthur is Grinnell's postmaster, Frank is

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comfortably situated in Des Moines, Miss Grace, who for a time was the assistant librarian at Grinnell college, has a similar position in California, and Mrs. Wiley is also comfortably located in Oregon.

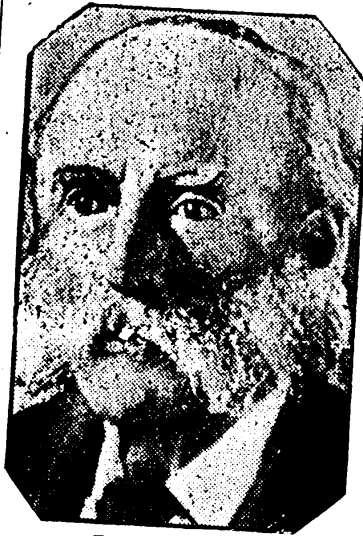
In 1886, Mr. Burton joined the Congregational church and all through his entire life has professed devout faith in God.

Funeral services were conducted this afternoon at the Congregational church here by Rev. Vittum. In one of his most eloquent addresses, Rev. Vittum paid a splendid tribute to P. D. Burton throughout the entire course of his sermon. Burial was in Hazelwood.

Besides his faithful wife and four children, he leaves his brother, Senator Burton of Ohio, to mourn his demise. Senator Burton was unable to be here at the funeral as he is in poor health himself, and is recuperating at Hot Springs, Virginia.

Throughout his entire life, Mr. Burton was always straight forward in his dealings with people and was a person to be respected by his fellow men. Everyone, who ever knew the fine old gentleman, will regret to hear of his death.

## Aged Resident Called By Death



P. D. BURTON.  
(Courtesy Des Moines Register).

## Death Calls P. D. Burton

died July 30, 1929

The writer first met P. D. Burton in 1878 when he was county clerk. He was comparatively young and vigorous, yet approaching middle age but in the prime of his usefulness. He was courteous, kind, and efficient. He was a good penman, had a bright mind and perhaps Poweshiek county has never had a more capable man in the office of clerk of the district court than Mr. Burton.

After Mr. Burton had left the clerk's office he came to Grinnell and formed a partnership in the drug business with J. G. Johnson, the firm being known as Johnson & Burton. He then bought land at Armour, S. Dak., and removed there staying four years, returning in 1889, after he had suffered hardships almost beyond endurance. Among other things he was caught in a blizzard on his way home one day and lay out all night wrapped up in his blankets under his sleigh box which he had turned over to keep out the wind, freezing both his feet. After returning to Grinnell he became a director and vice-president of the Grinnell Savings bank and was also a director and stock holder of the old grange store which played an important part in the early business of this town.

September 12, 1903, he was married to Theresa Wright of Grinnell whose parents were early settlers in St. Lawrence county, New York, having emigrated to that place from Vermont, descendants of the well known Putnam family of which Gen. Israel Putnam is one of the most notable in history.

His life at Grinnell exceeds sixty years and in all his activities he has been recognized as a man of culture and of intelligence, a wise counsellor and an honorable and upright man. His wife was a faithful helper through his last illness and up to the day of his death she gave of the best she could to alleviate his pain and to keep him informed by reading and talking on the events which have been transpiring the last few months. Grinnell has lost a valuable citizen who had given 89 years of his long life to help to make the world in which he lived better.

**D. BURTON.** The prominent gentleman who is the subject of this sketch has been called upon to perform a number of business and official trusts, and in no one instance has he ever been found lacking in the fulfillment of their requirements. This fact, with his hearty, honest, upright and generous nature, explains the general high esteem in which he is held. Mr. Burton is Vice-president of the Grinnell Savings Bank, a stockholder and Director in the grange store, and ex-Clerk of the Courts. He was born in Piketon, Pike County, Ohio, September 27, 1840, being the son of William Burton, a native of Vermont, who was the son of Asa Burton, a native of England, and had served in the British navy. When the latter came to America he settled in Vermont, where he engaged in farming and where he lived until his death.

The father of our subject formed one of the heroic band of Green Mountain boys in the War of 1812. He was afterward graduated from Dartmouth College and became a minister in the Presbyterian Church. He received a call to Piketon, Ohio, and then was in the Presbyterian University at Circleville. Later he went to Piketon, and finally to Austinburgh, Ashtabula County, where he died March 12, 1858, aged sixty-eight years. The mother of our subject, Elizabeth (Grant) Burton, born at

Colebrook, Conn., was the daughter of Elijah Grant, of Connecticut, a farmer who ended his days in Colebrook. The mother came to Grinnell with her son, where she died April 1, 1886. The father of our subject was married twice, having by his first wife two daughters, both deceased, and by his second wife, the mother of our subject, four sons and one daughter, all living, namely: Mary B., the wife of Prof. Shurtleff, Treasurer of Oberlin College; Philander D., our subject; Edward, a merchant in Lincoln; William, who was a soldier in the Fifteenth Ohio Battery throughout the entire war and now resides in Garden Valley, Cal.; and Theodore, who resides at Cleveland, Ohio, a graduate of Oberlin and a practicing attorney.

Our subject was reared at Piketon until nine years old; he then lived in Ashtabula County, where he attended the common schools until he was seventeen years of age, after which he was a student in Grand River Institute for three years, and then enlisted, August 20, 1861, in the Fourteenth Ohio Battery, being mustered in at Cleveland and sent South, where he took part in the battles of Ft. Donelson and Shiloh. On the way to Vicksburg the regiment was captured in the battle of Holly Springs, was paroled and sent

to Columbus, Ohio, where later our subject was taken sick, and September 14, 1863, was discharged on account of physical disability. He returned to his Ohio home, and in the spring of 1864 he and his brother Ed came to Grinnell, Iowa, with a lot of sheep, but Ed did not like the country and went to Illinois, while our subject remained, settling on a section of land bought by his father in 1854, situated six miles northeast of Grinnell, bringing out the family and proceeding to improve two hundred and forty acres of the tract, his brothers Will and Theodore coming out presently to assist him. He continued upon the farm until 1876, when he was elected Clerk of the District and Circuit Courts. He removed to Montezuma in January, 1877, was re-elected in 1878 and served until January, 1881.

Mr. Burton then settled at Grinnell and engaged in the drug and medicine, stationery and book business with J. G. Johnson, under the firm name of Johnson & Burton. He sold out in the year 1886 on account of his health and went to

South Dakota, where he bought a farm of three hundred and twenty acres, improved it and raised grain for four years, after which he rented it two years, and in 1892 sold it. Returning to Grinnell in the year 1890, he bought the place at which he now lives and has remained here ever since. He still owns the old home of one hundred and eight acres in Grinnell Township, two miles east. The residence at the corner of Elm and Sixth Avenue is an elegant building, having all modern improvements and a fine conservatory. An original stockholder of the Savings Bank, he is its Vice-president.

Our subject was married at Madison, Lake County, Ohio, February 8, 1868, to Miss Ruby, daughter of Dr. Andrus Merriman, a practicing physician of that place. They are the parents of four children, viz: Frank, Arthur, Kate and Grace, all at home. Mr. Burton is a charter member of Gordon Granger Post, G. A. R. He is an active Republican and has been a member of the County Central Committee of that party.

BURTON, P. D.—Clerk of the courts. Was born in Pike county, Ohio, September 24, 1840. When nine years of age he, with his parents, moved to Austinburg, Ashtabula county, same State. Here young Burton received all the advantages of a good school education. He here commenced, when quite young, to make his own way in the world. He commenced as clerk in a store, where he continued until the breaking out of the Rebellion, when he enlisted in the Fourteenth Ohio battery, in August, 1861, and was mustered out September 24, 1863. Mr. B. was engaged in the following battles: Shiloh, Fort Donelson, Siege of Corinth, and numerous skirmishes. On his return from the army he came to Iowa, but remained only a short time, when he returned to his native State. In 1865 he again came westward and located in Grinnell township on a farm, where he has since made his home, and has 108 acres of Poweshiek's best land in his possession, finely improved. In 1876 he was elected by his friends to the office of Clerk of the Courts and re-elected in 1878, and has filled the office with honor to himself and satisfaction to his constituents. He is characterized as a man of industry, and is governed by the most rigid principles of honesty and integrity. He was married in Lake county, Ohio, on February 5, 1867, to Miss Ruby Merriman, a native of that county. Their family circle are: Frank, Arthur, Kate and Grace.

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