

A Good Man 9-5- Passes On 1930

Funeral Services Are Held Wednesday Afternoon For Oscar Wilbur Clifton.

SEXTON OF CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH FOR FIFTY YEARS

In All That Time Mr. Clifton Never Failed in His Duty of Ringing The Church Bell.

Funeral services were held Wednesday afternoon from the home on Broad street for Oscar Wilbur Clifton, old and respected citizen of Grinnell, who passed away last Sunday, aged 68 years and eight days. The services were conducted by Rev. P. A. Johnson who spoke suitable words of the useful life that had ended. Mrs. Margery Bouma with Miss Esther Taylor at the piano, sang very sweetly two selections, "O Love, That Wilt Not Let Me Go" and "Crossing The Bar". Pall Bearers were Paul Meyers, William Laymiller, Philip Streck, A. M. Burton, Charles LeRoy and G. C. Murray. Interment was made in Hazelwood.

With the passing of Mr. Clifton, Grinnell loses a man who has been closely connected with the community since he came to Grinnell as a boy in 1870. For fifty years, until he was forced by failing health to relinquish his cherished duties, a few months ago, he was the sexton of the Congregational church and during all those years he never once failed in his duty of ringing the church bell; a record of service that few can surpass. He held the position so long that he came to be considered really a recognized part of the church and it was hard to adjust one's self to the situation when "Oscar" was no longer about his accustomed duties. He was in Grinnell when the present church was built and upon all the history of the church Oscar was a reliable authority.

Mr. Clifton was born at Hudson, New York August 23, 1862. He was the second of three George Cliftons. His father was the first, he was the second and the present George Clifton, his Nephew, now living in Grinnell, is George III. When he was a boy the family came west and after brief stops in Austin, Minn., Marshalltown and Searsboro, found a congenial home in Grinnell which remained Oscar's home until his death.

June 21, 1889, he was united in marriage with Dorothy C. Grewe. To this happy union were born two daughters, Amy and Alice. During the early years of his activity here, he pursued the occupation of a painter and passed in and out of many Grinnell homes, well liked and respected. He was very successful in his work and was a devoted husband and a loving father.

Mr. Clifton was a member of the Knights of Pythias lodge for some time and was for years an active member of the Grinnell Fire Department. He joined the Congregational church when a boy and until his death was a faithful and consistent member.

Several years ago Mr. Clifton's health broke under the strain of years of earnest toil and he has been failing gradually ever since. During all his suffering he has had the constant and loving care of his devoted wife, who did all that could be done to relieve his sufferings. Sunday, August 10 he was taken seriously ill with complications which resulted in his death just three weeks later on Sunday, August 31 at 4:30 o'clock p. m.

He leaves his wife and daughters and five nephews, George, Earl and Arthur Clifton of Grinnell, Richard Clifton of Petersburg, Alaska, and Kenneth Clifton of Seattle, Wash.

Those who came from out of town to attend the funeral were Mrs. Clifton's sister, Mrs. Sophie Mohrfeld and a nephew and niece, children of Mrs. Clifton's brother, Robert and Josephine Grewe, all of Greenville, Iowa, Mrs. Louis Mohrfeld of Lockland, Ohio, and Charles Mohrfeld of Tama.

TUESDAY, JUNE 26, 1928.

"Well Done, Good And Faithful Servant"

The many friends of Oscar Clifton will read with appreciation the following resolution passed by the church which he served so well and faithfully for many years:

The First Congregational Church of Grinnell, Iowa,

To Oscar W. Clifton, our friend and brother:

Your work in caring for this Church building began when it was dedicated in 1879. You were absent from Grinnell for a few months, two years later. With this exception, you have worked in caring for this building from the time it was first occupied to March, 1928, a period of 49 years. For about 45 years, you have had the responsibility of being the custodian of this Church. The pastor who united you and Mrs. Clifton in marriage, received you both into Church membership, baptized and received into church membership your two daughters, says that he cannot remember your being absent from your place for a single Sunday during the 17 years he served with you. We have reason to believe that such a service has no parallel in the history of the Iowa Churches of all denominations.

You have worked long and faithfully; and if at any time we have criticized you, you have replied with patience and kindness, teaching us lessons of goodwill and friendliness.

We hope your last days may be your happiest days and that they may be many, with your home and family. And we have faith to believe that we shall meet you, by and by, in the general Assembly and Church of the first-born, who are written in Heaven.

Presented by the Committee, Mrs. Fannie R. Morrison and Edmund M. Vittum, at a business meeting of the Church, and adopted by a unanimous vote, May 24, 1928.