

Coon, Andrew ~~Lewis~~<sup>ouis</sup>

*He died 12-1-1910*

b Logan Co., O., 1836. s of Jacob and Melinda  
(Wall) Coon of Fincastle, Va. Jacob was a  
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*M. Mary C. Paake*

*she died 3-25-1926*

*bur in Brooklyn.*

ANDREW LOUIS COON.

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On the list of Poweshiek county's honored dead appears the name of Andrew Louis Coon, who for many years was actively connected with business and agricultural interests here, his success therein enabling him to spend his last years in well merited retirement. He was a native of Ohio, born in Bellefontaine, Logan county, on the 1st of April, 1836. His parents, Jacob and Malinda (Wall) Coon, were born near Fincastle, Virginia, and were there married. Later they removed to Ohio and thence to Indiana, where they passed away in Grant county. He was a farmer by occupation and was a soldier in the war of 1812, serving under Commodore Perry, in whose honor he named his first grandson, Oliver Perry Coon, the eldest son of Andrew Louis Coon. He was a very extensive reader, was especially well posted on the political questions and issues of the day and was an unusually bright and well informed man for his period.

Andrew Louis Coon, who was one of a family of ten children, passed the first ten years of his life in the place of his nativity and then, about 1846, removed with his parents to Grant county, Indiana. He resided on a farm with his parents until 1853, when he went to Lagro, Indiana, and there learned the trade of saddle and harnessmaker. He followed that occupation in Indiana for a number of years and was there married. In 1861 he brought his wife and two children to Brooklyn, making the entire journey with a team and wagon. Upon his arrival here he established a harness shop and continued successfully in business until 1868, devoting the entire period to working at his trade with the exception

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of one year, when he was engaged in the operation of a hotel which he had purchased. In 1868, however, he sold the hotel and purchased a farm one mile north of Brooklyn, consisting of one hundred acres, and thereupon he took up his abode. For forty years he gave his entire time and attention to the improvement of that tract, cultivating the cereals best adapted to the soil and climate. He practiced rotation of crops, employed progressive methods in the conduct of his affairs and by wise and judicious management brought his fields to a high state of development. As the years passed he prospered and his well directed efforts were potent forces in the acquirement of a competency which made it possible, in 1908, for him to retire from the farm. In that year he removed to Brooklyn and purchased the comfortable dwelling which is still the family home. He was not long permitted, however, to enjoy the rest which he had so well merited, for two years later he was called from this life, his death occurring on the 1st of December, 1910.

On the 9th of April, 1857, in Indiana, Mr. Coon was united in marriage to Miss Mary C. Parke, who was born in Washington, Warren county, New Jersey, on the 18th of December, 1838. She was there reared and later removed to Indiana with her widowed mother and brother and sister. Her parents were E. M. and Rachel (Hunter) Parke, natives of New Jersey, where the father's death occurred. Elizabeth W. Parke, a sister of Mrs. Coon, was also married in Indiana, becoming the wife of William Forbes, and came to Brooklyn in 1857. Mrs. Parke, with her son John Parke, arrived in Brooklyn in 1861 in

company with her daughter Mrs. Coon, in whose home the mother passed away. Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Louis Coon celebrated their golden wedding in 1907. They were the parents of ten children, all of whom were born in Brooklyn with the exception of the two eldest, whose births occurred in Indiana. The children are as follows: Oliver Perry is a clothing merchant of Audubon, Iowa. George is a contractor and carpenter of Brooklyn. John F. is engaged in fence building in this city. Louis G. is an inventor of St. Louis. Mary Elizabeth is at home. Charles E. purchased and is now operating the old homestead. Estelle is mentioned below. Dr. Fred Forest, engaged in the practice of osteopathy in Niles, Michigan, served in the Fifty-second Regiment band during the Spanish-American war, leaving his high-school position to enlist. He was re-elected to the same position after returning home and taught for several years. Albert Deacon, a former highschool teacher, is now practicing osteopathy in South Bend, Indiana. Roy E. is studying at the Iowa State University preparatory to becoming a Presbyterian minister. Miss Estelle Coon, to whom we are indebted for the history of her father, is recognized as one of the foremost figures in educational circles of Poweshiek county, within whose borders her entire life has been spent. Her education was received in the public schools of Brooklyn, graduating from the high school in 1891, and for seven years thereafter she was engaged in teaching in District No. 1, Bear Creek township. For a year and a half she was the teacher of District No. 7, this township, after which she taught for six years in the Brooklyn graded school. She resigned from that position, however, upon her election on the democratic ticket to the office of county superintendent of schools in November, 1906. She served in that capacity for two terms, or until January 1, 1911, when she was the demo-

cratic candidate for a third term but was defeated by only forty-nine votes. She was the only democratic candidate who ever held the office of county superintendent of Poweshiek county, where the republican party has a majority of thirteen hundred, a fact which speaks in strong terms for her ability and the position which she occupies in the regard and esteem of her fellow citizens.

Mr. Coon was a liberal supporter of the Presbyterian church, to which his family also belonged, and was a member of the Legion of Honor and the Iowa Workmen. He was a democrat in politics, giving stanch allegiance to the principles of that party and doing all in his power to further its interests in the community, although he never sought nor desired public office as a reward for party fealty. He was a man whose personality commanded the good-will and confidence of his fellowman, and at his death the community lost one of its valued and respected citizens.