

## The Grinnell Herald

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# COL. SAMUEL F. COOPER

Something of the Life of This Honored  
Citizen Who Has Recently Pass-  
ed From Our Midst.

LIFE A FITTING EXAMPLE  
FOR PRESENT GENERATION

Deceased Was a Self Made Man In Ev-  
ery Sense of the Word—Worked  
Way Through College.

Colonel Samuel Freeman Cooper was born at Stockbridge, Mass., in December, 1826, and died at his home February 21, 1908. His native town was an inspiring place, snugly among the Berkshire Hills, where comforts and refinements abounded and men and women were born whose names were to be heard in the American world of arts and letters. This ennobling influence was to be continued when his family moved to the "new New England" which had grown up in Western Reserve around Marietta as a center.

It is not surprising that the year 1851 should see him graduating in the class of 1851 from Oberlin College, a class that Grinnell should always bear in grateful memory, for it gave us Colonel Cooper and Professor Parker. In College Colonel Cooper was largely self-supporting and in the winter used to support himself by school teaching. "Learning and Labor" were the mottoes of the school and Colonel Cooper was a motto bearer. From 1851 to 1855 he continued as a school teacher and in the latter year came to the little colony which Mr. Grinnell had founded in Iowa, Professor Parker following him later.

While at Oberlin Colonel Cooper was married to Margaret Jane Lochridge, a fit companion in every respect. She was an unusually efficient woman and attended Oberlin College at the same time as her husband. On their removal here she became prominently identified with affairs of college and town and was a member of the executive committee of the W. B. M. F., that body which has gathered together so many noble women. She was also at the head of the first movement of the Women's Missionary Society to aid students with funds. She died in California a few years ago, universally loved and respected and lies buried in Hazelwood.

From 1855 to 1861 he lived here and the years were filled with activities of a public nature. The fruition of those years of generous planting will be reaped by town and college for the generations, for he had a lasting influence on education both in Grinnell and in the state during those formative years. He served Grinnell University as trustee and aided materially in getting Iowa College located here when it left Davenport. As a member of the Iowa Board of Education he was especially active in securing the change from the rate bill which required payment of tuition from every scholar to our present grand free school system. On this board was Charles Mason, first chief justice of the Iowa Supreme Court, who had been the compiler of the first code Iowa ever had and through him Mr. Cooper's influence was felt in a

marked way on our laws. Judge Mason was a jurist, not an educator, and he naturally turned to the New England scholar and teacher for advice on matters of public education.

In other ways too he served this community. During the earliest days after his arrival he conducted a real estate and law office. After the war, he organized with C. W. H. Beyer the business which is now C. W. H. Beyer & Co. A short time later he was one of the organizers and first president of the Merchants National Bank. He was also the first mayor of Grinnell, from 1865-1867, and served faithfully and conscientiously in various other positions of trust and honor.

In 1860 he was editor of the Montezuma Republican and gave valiant service to the republican party in the campaign that elected Abraham Lincoln to the presidency. His service to the cause of freedom was not to be ended in ease and peace, however, and with the first call "To arms" in 1861 he joined the Fourth Iowa cavalry. Later he was transferred to the Fortieth Iowa infantry. For four years he gave brave, loyal service to the Union cause and was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel of his regiment, winning the commendations of his superior officers for his bravery. An instance of his courage and loyalty occurred at the taking of Little Rock, when so sick that he could hardly sit in his saddle, he led his regiment thru the rain of bullets without flinching from the path of duty and danger.

During these four trying years his health was shattered and he contracted the physical weakness which was to be a terrible reminder to him of the great struggle throughout his life, contributing largely to his demise. At the close of the war he remained as U. S. Judge Advocate in Arkansas during the trying days of reconstruction, and bore himself with an honor that shamed the name of "carpet bagger."

Then for a period he was engaged in business in Grinnell, as above noted, joint editor of the Grinnell Herald with Dr. Cravath in 1873-74, served as U. S. Consul at Glasgow and finally, because of increasing physical weakness, went to California to make his home in 1894.

During the succeeding years his interest in the College and town that he had done so much to promote was unflinching. During his life his gifts to Iowa College and Oberlin have been large, very large in proportion to his means. His latest remembrance, as has previously been noted, was a stained glass window in Herrick Chapel in memory of his wife, Jane L. Cooper and Mrs. Sarah Candace Parker, who were life-long friends.

Professor Parker recalls with tender memory his first and last meeting with Colonel Cooper, the former when as a young man Colonel Cooper welcomed his classmate on his first arrival in Grinnell, the latter when Colonel Cooper came last year on his mission of love, to attend the dedication window in Herrick Chapel.

Throughout his life Colonel Cooper was a man of warm impulses, generous to friends, loyal to his town, true to his wife and faithful to his God. He was public spirited, more so perhaps than the world knew, and the town and college of Grinnell have good cause to remember his name with gratitude for through him have their children and their children's children been blessed. It is a well deserved and fitting monument to his life and efforts for education in Grinnell that one of our finest ward buildings should bear his name.

Funeral services will be held this afternoon conducted by Professor L. F. Parker and Professor S. J. Buck, life-long friends and associates, and Rev. George E. Atkinson, a graduate from Iowa College in the class of 1895 and Colonel Cooper's pastor at Campbell, who accompanied the remains here yesterday.

The honorary pall bearers are W. S. Leisure, E. W. Allen, W. Hays, D. F. Hays, J. M. Carney of Gilman and John W. Jones of Brooklyn, all members of Colonel Cooper's company when he enlisted in the army. The active pall bearers are D. S. Morrison,

C. W. H. Beyer, Professor J. Macy, J. P. Lyman, W. O. Willard and Judge W. R. Lewis, all warm friends of Colonel Cooper for many years. The music will be furnished by a quartet consisting of Mrs. H. D. Works, Miss Stella Bartlett, E. B. Brande and A. C. Harriman, representatives of some of the oldest families of Grinnell. The remains will be interred by the side of his beloved wife in Hazelwood cemetery.

### Resolutions of Respect.

The directors of the Merchants National bank took action as follows concerning the death of Col. S. F. Cooper:

In view of the death of Colonel Samuel Freeman Cooper, the founder of this bank and its president during its first twelve years:

Resolved, That we spread upon our records an expression of our appreciation and admiration of the wisdom and fairness with which he conducted the affairs of the bank, of his fidelity to friends, his generosity to worthy objects, his patriotic service in peace and in war, his educational wisdom as registered in the laws of the state, and of the quiet intelligent kindness that made his home a delight and a refuge for orphans, and his life so fruitful in Christian and manly service.

G. P. WYCKOFF,  
D. S. MORRISON,  
J. P. LYMAN,  
J. M. CAMPBELL.