

TUESDAY, MAY 19, 1925.

CHAS. F. CRAVER REMEMBERED HERE

Played An Important Part in the Development of the City of Grinnell

DIED RECENTLY AT HIS HOME IN TULSA, OKLA.

Was a Business Man of Outstanding Ability and Active in all Good Things.

The following obituary of Charles F. Craver was taken from a paper printed at Tulsa, Okla. From 1865 until 1890 Mr. Craver was one of the best known men in Grinnell. He was a man of broad mind, clear cut, intelligent, generous, public spirited, and an active, working Christian gentleman. His life in Grinnell was one of success in business and one in which he exemplified to full extent the Christian spirit of cheerfulness and of neighborliness. He was an active working member of the Methodist church. Probably in all the years of the history of Grinnell no one has been held in higher esteem and few lived up more fully to the measure of a man. Leaving Grinnell with the Craver, Steele & Austin Manufacturing Company to relocate at Harvey, Ill., he made a step which at the time was considered especially promising but the hard years in the middle nineties were severe on the new company.

He was, however, a business man of outstanding ability and locating later in Tulsa, he became interested in oil and won a marked success. In his death Poweshiek county loses one of

community in which he lived a real man. The following is clipped from the Tulsa paper:

Charles F. Craver, 83 years old, Civil War veteran, pioneer manufacturer-exporter and, in later years, oil operator, died at his home, 230 East Woodward boulevard, at 11:45 o'clock Tuesday morning of heart trouble following an illness of almost seven years.

Death of Craver recalled to the minds of a few close friends the story he was so fond of telling of a day early in the spring of 1865 when a squad of eight men, forming a hollow square about a ninth, marched through the streets of Augusta, Ga., to the little port, where a gunboat lay in wait for their arrival. Each man composing the square bore a cocked musket rained upon the solitary figure in the center, and had orders to shoot and shoot to kill at the slightest disturbance anywhere in the vicinity.

The ninth figure in the little group was Jefferson Davis, president of what was then the recent Confederate States of America. Craver was one of the eight Union soldiers delegated to guard the former chief executive during the march from the house where Davis had been under guard to the gun-boat, which was to transport him away.

The passing of what is thought to be the last surviving member of the guard brings to light a bit of the history of those trying days that is believed to have hitherto been unpublished. Few except the immediate friends and relatives of these composing the squad know of the order to rain the muskets on the former president and shoot to kill at the first sound of a shot or other indications of rescue attempt anywhere in the little city.

Craver had been in the oil business here since 1907, until he suffered a nervous breakdown more than six years ago. He never fully recovered from that attack, although for the past several months his health had been considerably improved.

Mr. Craver came here from Chicago. here he had engaged in the manufacture of farming implements for several years. Previous to that time he had been the head of a similar business in Grinnell, Iowa, conducted under the firm name of Craver and Steele.

The firm first came into being in Grinnell in 1877, and was for a number of years the largest exporter of farming implements in the United States. Craver is credited with having invented the first successful 12-foot "binder," for cutting and binding small grain.

The Craver oil operations extended over six states, Oklahoma, Kansas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Texas and Illinois. They were conducted under the firm name of Craver and Sons.

Born in Franklinville, N. J. in September, 1842, Craver moved to Indiana and later to Iowa at an early age. After establishing his business of manufacturer he removed to Chicago, where he made his home until coming to Tulsa.

The International Harvester company is now marketing two types of grain cutting machines on which the patents were granted to Craver, members of his family say.

He enlisted in the Fourth Iowa cavalry at the outbreak of the Civil war, and served with his regiment throughout the unpleasantness. His was the only cavalry troop to go through the entire siege of Vicksburg. He was one of the captors of the members of the Confederate cabinet, and composed part of the guard taking the Confederate secretary of the treasury to a northern prison. His company also composed a part of the regiment of General Wilson on the latter's destructive raid through the southern states, near the close of the war.

Craver is survived by two sons, Arthur H. and Frank S. Craver, both of Tulsa. His wife, Mrs. Angeline Hambleton Craver died two years ago.

Funeral services were conducted from the residence Thursday afternoon, and burial followed in Rose Hill cemetery.

Early school records show that he was secretary of the Board at the time of school house fire, February, 1871, and served as secretary and director continuously until 1887. Was active in Y. M. C. A. during the 1870s, general civic leader.

Charles F. Craver, A. M. '86, father of Arthur H. Craver, '91, and Frank S. Craver, '00, died at his home in Tulsa May 12, at the age of eighty-two. Mr. Craver was a resident of Grinnell from 1865 till 1890; he was inventor of fundamental improvements in grain-binders, and the Craver, Steele & Austin Co. of Grinnell established in 1877 was for a number of years the largest exporter of grain machinery in the United States. Mr. Craver went with the company to Chicago in 1890, and in 1907 entered the oil business in Oklahoma, with his sons, their operations under the name of Craver & Sons extending from Illinois to Louisiana and Texas. He enlisted in the Fourth Iowa cavalry at the outbreak of the civil war, and was with the troop that captured the confederate cabinet. His wife, who was Angeline Hambleton, '66, died two years ago. Probably no one in the history of Grinnell, according to W. G. Ray, '82, of the Grinnell Herald, was held in higher esteem than Mr. Craver during the twenty-five years of his residence in this community, and few have lived up more fully to the measure of a man.