

(Perry Dempster)

OBITUARY

6-17-1912

John E. Dempster.

John E. Dempster of Chester town- ship, Poweshiek county, one of the old settlers of Scott county and later of Poweshiek county, died quite suddenly Sunday morning, June 2nd, at the home of his sister-in-law in Davenport, Iowa, where he had gone for a few days' visit and on business.

Mr. Dempster was born in Morgan county, Ohio, January 3rd, 1827. He came to Scott county in 1859, and has ever since been interested and actively engaged in everything that has had for its object the welfare of his community, or of the state and nation.

He was the second of a family of seven sons, only one remaining, the oldest of the seven, Mr. Perry Dempster, of Emerson, Neb. This brother came to Grinnell to visit his brother John, after he had gone to Davenport, but he went on arriving there only the evening before his brother passed away.

Mr. Dempster was a hard worker and a close student of men and affairs. He was interested in every movement for the good of the public.

In his young manhood he was a very successful school teacher. He was not so much an educated man of the schools as he was of Life's School, but he was a great student and an educated man in the broader sense.

His interest in the public school work of his community kept him on the School Board, as secretary, for 31 years.

So careful a student was he of the questions of public interest that the people saw in him a proper person to represent them in the law-making body of the state and sent him to the state legislature, where he represented Scott county with credit and honor to himself and his constituency.

Mr. Dempster was

6-4-DIED, 1912  
John E. Dempster.

News came as a great surprise yesterday of the death of Hon. John E. Dempster, one of Chester's best known and most respected farmers on Sunday morning in Davenport, where he was visiting relatives.

The funeral will be held tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock from the Caester church conducted by Rev. H. L. Wissler. Interment will be in Chester cemetery.

Dr. Dempster left here a week ago last Thursday, apparently in his usual good health, but a pimple on his neck, of which he had thought nothing, developed into a carbuncle which finally caused his death. He was aged 75 years, 4 months and 29 days.

Mr. Dempster was a pioneer of Scott county and came to Chester twelve years ago, purchasing the Jason Sherman farm where he had made his home ever since. His wife died some time ago, but he is survived by three sons, John, Alden and Roscoe, all of Chester, and three daughters, Mrs. E. W. Fisher of Chester, Mrs. Wilbur Sherman, of Peucan Rapids, Minn., and Edna, who is at home.

A great many friends learn the news of this unexpected passing with sincere sorrow.

On Sunday morning, June 2nd, he came to the end of life's journey, and closed the earth-life, "like one who wraps the drapery of his couch about him, and lies down to pleasant dreams."

He leaves a family of three sons and three daughters, and his eldest brother, Perry Dempster, all of whom were present at the funeral, and a host of friends to mourn the loss of a loving father and a true neighbor and friend.

The funeral services were held at Chester Center church, conducted by Rev. H. L. Wissler, assisted by Rev. Mr. McBride of the Sonora M. E. church, and the body was laid to rest in Chester cemetery.

Card of Thanks.

We wish to extend our hearty thanks to the friends whose sympathy has comforted us in this time of bereavement and sorrow.

- MRS. E. W. FISHER.
- MRS. W. W. SHERMAN.
- J. J. DEMPSTER.
- ALDEN DEMPSTER.
- EDNA DEMPSTER.
- ROSCOE DEMPSTER.
- EDNA DEMPSTER.
- ROSCOE DEMPSTER.

206 17 JOHN E. DEMPSTER.

John E. Dempster, who owns a farm of three hundred and twenty acres of good land in Chester township, Poweshiek county, and is now living retired, has made his home in Iowa for fifty-two years and is well acquainted with the resources of the state and the history of its development since the Civil War.

He is a native of Morgan county, Ohio, born January 3, 1837, and is a son of Thomas and Phebe (Lane) Dempster, the former born on the eastern shore of Maryland and the latter in Dutchess county, New York. The ancestors upon both sides of the house fought in the Revolutionary war, the Crafts, who belonged to the maternal branch, being driven from the ground where the battle of White Plains, New York, was fought. The paternal grandfather moved with his family in the early part of the nineteenth century to Morgan county, and there passed the remainder of his days. Thomas Dempster came to Iowa with his family early in the '60s and settled in Scott county, near Davenport, on a farm of one hundred and twenty acres. He was successful in his business and acquired two hundred and eighty acres. He died in this state and is buried at Vail in Crawford county.

John E. Dempster, of this review, was the second in a family of seven sons. He attended the district schools and worked on his father's farm, coming to Scott county, Iowa, March 5, 1859, his eldest brother having preceded him to this state. He applied himself industriously to agriculture and stock-raising and became one of the well known and popular citizens of Scott county. He was commissioned captain of the militia September 17, 1864, and served in that office until the close of the war. He taught school several terms in his early manhood and also purchased an interest in a threshing outfit, with which he was connected for several years. In June, 1868, he bought a farm of one hundred and twenty acres and as the years advanced his prosperity increased until he became the owner of two hundred and eighty acres of good land in Scott county. Since 1900 he has lived in Poweshiek county, where he owns three hundred and twenty acres, which are cultivated by his sons, as he retired from active work several years ago.

In 1868 Mr. Dempster was married to Miss Esther E. Burch, a daughter of Ira and Catherine (Deyo) Burch, and to this union three children were born, two daughters and one son: Emma E., who married E. W. Fisher, a farmer of Chester township, and has three daughters, Esther E., Ruth M. and Dorothy E.; Mary J., the wife of W. W. Sherman, of Ottertail county, Minnesota, and the mother of three children, Harold W., Edith M. and Bernice; and John J., now living upon his own farm, who is married and has two sons, J. Gaylord

and Keith G. The mother of these children died December 24, 1873, and Mr. Dempster was again married in 1875, his second union being with Miss Josephine Fitzsimmons, a daughter of Felix Fitzsimmons, a contractor of New York state. Three children were born of this union, two sons and one daughter: Alden H., who married Oral J. Neely and has two children, Gertrude J. and Mildred L.; Edna A., who lives at home; and Roscoe, also living at home.

In politics Mr. Dempster gives his allegiance to the republican party and for many years was one of the active workers for its success. He served as secretary of the independent school district of Linn Grove from 1868 to 1899, a record which probably has never been surpassed in Iowa. He also filled the office of township clerk for three terms. In 1897 he was elected a member of the state legislature from Scott county, filling the position with an ability that reflected upon him the highest credit. He also served in charge of the United States census of 1890 for Scott county. He displayed an interest and efficiency in all his official duties which met the hearty approval of the people, his constant aim being to promote the public good. Successful as a business man and farmer he now enjoys a rest, which he richly earned, and also possesses the confidence and esteem of all who know him.

---