

The Grinnell Herald

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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1920.

EARLY RESIDENT DIES.

Paul Esler, Successful Retired Farmer, passes Away at Home Near Grinnell.

One of Iowa's most successful farmers, a man of character and a highly respected citizen, was removed from his earthly activities when Paul Esler died at his home south of Grinnell Thursday, September 23, at the age of 73 years.

Mr. Paul Esler was the son of Mr. William and Mrs. Jennie Esler of Ballymena, North Ireland, and was born in the year 1847.

His parents were farmers with limited means with a family of eight children to support. So Paul and his sister, Mrs. Joseph Kissock and husband, heard the call of this land of freedom and opportunity and seized their first chance to cross the Atlantic. Paul landed in New York City with scarce enough funds with which to buy his first meal and night's lodging, but he very soon found work as a hostler and coachman and thus began to lay up funds with which to come further west. When this was done—much to the disappointment of his employer—he gave up his work, packed his grip and started for Iowa, landing at Hickory Grove in the fall of 1882 with little or no funds, but with plenty of vigor and courage. He at once found a home and employment with the Burroughs family just across the valley from the cemetery where his body was laid to rest.

Paul was so quiet, so faithful and so trustworthy that he won the confidence of good friends and soon started as an independent farmer for himself.

March 31st, 1887, he was joined in marriage to Miss Margaret Barr and to them have been born five daughters and three sons, Mrs. Jennie Bacon, Mrs. Agnes Whitaker, Mrs. Mary McDowell, and Elizabeth and Lucy Esler, the latter two of whom died in infancy and early childhood. Their three sons, Ross J., William, and Paul Esler, Jr., are all living and were present with their mother and three sisters at the burial service.

Mr. Esler leaves surviving him one brother and one sister who still have their home in Ireland and one sister who lives in Canada.

Paul's rare judgment and tireless energy stood him well in hand enabling him to live a useful and happy life in this land of his adoption.

Though his serious accident and resultant illness have caused him bodily weakness and pain during recent years, he has never failed to appreciate his blessings, nor has he given way to discouragement or complaint. Those who have known him best have recognized him as a true friend and brother, and share with the family and relatives a deep sense of loss at his going.

Mr. Esler, in his efforts to establish a home for himself, did not lose sight of the community interests but was ready to lend a hand to any worthy enterprise as many churches and societies hereabout can testify.

The burial services were held on Sunday afternoon at the United Brethren church at Hickory Grove in Jasper county and were conducted by the Rev. C. B. Foster, pastor, with the assistance of Rev. J. W. Primrose who is the pastor of the Church of God at Newburg. The church was filled to overflowing with his neighbors and friends. His body was laid to rest in the Hickory Grove cemetery on their family lot beside those of his two infant daughters.

No one has done more to build up a happy home and educate his children to lives of usefulness than has Mr. Esler. His many Grinnell and Jasper county friends regret his loss and join with them in deep sorrow.