

TUESDAY, JULY 19, 1921.

HON MATT EWART DIES

Stalwart Builder of Empire Passes
To the Great Beyond.

WAS A PIONEER OF MATERIAL AND MORAL PROGRESS

Had Served His Day and Generation
Well And Helped Lay Strong Foundation.

Hon. Matt Ewart has completed his service to the world and passed away yesterday morning at St. Francis hospital after many years of constantly growing weakness, until his formerly active life had become a burden to himself, and he became a helpless invalid. There was a time when Matt Ewart would have been pronounced one of the foremost men in Poweshiek county. But age and steadily growing infirmities placed him on the red list and constant changes have brought many people to the county who are unfamiliar with his worth and usefulness.

Matt Ewart was born in Morrow county, Ohio, in 1839. He came to Poweshiek county in 1866, and with his brother, Robert, he owned nearly five sections of Iowa soil in Pleasant township. The Ewart Brothers at the time were the largest stock raisers and feeders in the county, and the building of the G. & M. railway was a great help to them and all Pleasant township in the shipping of cattle and produce. The Ewarts gave liberally to secure the branch because they knew the opportunities it would bring, and with their neighbors they profited by it.

Matt Ewart was an active man, a leader and a thinker, a student of politics and early gave his attention to the advancement of the farmers alliance and the greenback cause, believing that more money would increase the value of farm produce and directly help the western farmer to improve his condition.

Mr. Ewart was a prohibitionist in practice and in principle and when the prohibition amendment was under consideration in 1882 he not only favored it, but addressed meetings in the county supporting its passage. He was also greatly interested in politics and his advice was always sought by members of his own party and followed because they had confidence in his judgment.

... politician, and a former speaker of the house. The legislature was close, and at first it was believed that a legislature had been elected which would repeal our temperance laws. But the exultation was short-lived for Mr. Ewart soon made it clear that he would sooner lose his right arm than vote against the cause of temperance. He held a commanding position in the legislature and was very close at one time to an election as Speaker of the House.

Few men have enjoyed more influence than Mr. Ewart. Few men have been more useful, and few men have lived of whom so much good can be said. The writer first knew him in the early nineties. We learned to know him well, quiet, earnest, modest in his personal contact with men, but withal aggressive when following a principle, and as true to his purpose as a polar needle. He was a good man, a leader, a builder, one of the men whose name will be held in honor as long as the county lives, a central figure in its development, a lover of schools, a student of high ideals, and a man of true worth.

Mr. Ewart never married. The nearest relatives surviving to mourn his loss are his nieces, Mrs. Mark Sturgeon of Grinnell, Mrs. Fred Rayburn of Oskaloosa, Mrs. Mattie Bruce of Mt. Gillead, O., and his nephew, James S. Ewart, of Grinnell.

The body was taken to the home of Mrs. Mark Sturgeon yesterday. Tomorrow, after a prayer at the home, the body will be taken to the church at Ewart where the funeral service will be conducted at 11:00 o'clock by Rev. E. W. Cross.

a member and of many thoughtful and warm friends who loved him for the useful life he had led, and the many kind words spoken and generous deeds done.

Burial was in the family Mausoleum at Ewart.

Hon. Matt Ewart, Poweshiek's worthy and honored pioneer, is at the hospital and was unable to attend the funeral.