

OBITUARY.

Thomas Foster.

Thomas Foster was born Feb. 15, 1837, near Brookville, Jefferson county, Pennsylvania. On March 26, 1851, he came to Iowa with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Foster. They first settled in Davenport where on May 19, 1855, the father died, leaving a wife and nine living children, of whom Thomas was the oldest boy. Upon him, therefore, fell at once the responsibilities of the head of the family.

On March 1, 1858, the family moved to a farm in Hickory Grove township, thirteen miles northwest of Davenport. On Nov. 3, 1859, he was married to Barbara Ann Mathews. He went on another farm at this time and established a home of his own. To this union were born eleven children, all of whom except one grew to maturity.

In October of 1887 Mr. Foster with his family moved to Grinnell, whither his mother and three younger brothers had preceded him. He moved onto a farm which he bought in Chester, where he lived until the death of his wife on Dec. 31, 1906.

At this time Mr. Foster sold his farm in Chester and since then has spent much time visiting his children, who were considerably scattered, but making his permanent home with his daughter, Mrs. P. Y. Fuller, in Chester. While not entirely well, he had been active and able to be about until called to Iowa from Loveland, Colo., where he had spending the winter with his son Russell, by the death of his daughter, Mrs. P. Y. Fuller on Feb. 6. The sudden change to a lower altitude, combined with the anxiety and strain of the occasion caused a severe attack of heart trouble. He seemed to rally, but the disease returned suddenly and he passed away on April 5, aged 79 years, at the Fuller home.

Mr. Foster is survived by nine children; B. W. Foster, living in Hickory Grove township, seven miles west of Grinnell; Mrs. H. A. Burch, living on the A. A. Foster farm two and one-half miles northwest of Grinnell; Mrs. Effle

ty; C. R. Foster, of Loveland, Colo.; Mrs. Mary Ballinger, of Nirada, Mon.; Mrs. Ralph Sherman, of Chester; Clyde Foster, of Chester; Clifford A. Foster, of Olathe, Colo.; J. E. Foster, living near Searsboro. Two brothers and two sisters are living; Mrs. Margaret McCune, who though over eighty years old was present at the funeral; Mrs. P. E. Freeman, of Newton; John Foster, of Boise, Ida.; and A. A. Foster, of Grinnell.

All the children were present with the exception of Mrs. Steward, kept at home by illness, and Mrs. Ballinger, whom the word could not reach in time. Mr. Foster's two sisters and his brother, A. A. Foster, also attended the funeral. John Foster, the other brother, could not come. Others present from out of town were Mr. Montgomery and Mr. Stang, of Moline, Ill.; Mr. and Mrs. Prebe, Mrs. Charles Mathews and two sons and a daughter, of Des Moines; C. S. Warne, Charles Warne, Mrs. Margaret Trout, of Villisca; Mrs. Anna Hausen, of Tarkio, Mo.

Funeral services were conducted on Sunday afternoon. Fifty-nine relatives attended the brief services at the home. If all could have come there would have been over seventy. The main service was at Chester church, conducted by Rev. S. B. Welles. Interment was in Chester cemetery beside the body of his wife. His five sons and one son-in-law, P. Y. Fuller, acted as pall bearers.

Mr. and Mrs. Foster during their life near Davenport joined the Lynn Grove Methodist church, and on coming to Grinnell they brought their letters to the Methodist church here. His membership remained in this church, but as old age came upon him he became a regular attendant at the Congregational church in Chester.

It is always a pleasure to say appreciative words of a good man. Thomas Foster was one of the men who could be trusted at all times to be on the side of right and honor. The best tribute to his manly character and the womanly virtues of his wife is the large and respected family of children grown to manhood in this vicinity, all of whom have become honored and useful citizens, exemplifying today the results of training in right ways. Mr. Foster has passed to his reward with friends mourning his loss, but it can truthfully be said of him, "his works do follow him."