

# J. W. Harpster Dies Suddenly Last Saturday

## Morning; Others Are Called,

G. Register  
Feb. 28, 1927

### Also.

The community today mourns the loss of an unusually large number of prominent and influential citizens, whose deaths came close together last Friday night and Saturday morning. J. W. Harpster, for many years a business man and leading citizen of the city, died Saturday morning at his home after a very brief illness; William Hotchkiss, also well known here for many years passed away Friday night, and Philip German, actively associated with the city and community for a long time, passed away during the night.

Grinnell feels, acutely, this triple loss, for every one of these men, in his way, represented a definite phase in the life of the community. W. A. Hotchkiss had farmed near Grinnell for years. Mr. German had conducted his business here so long that J. W. Harpster had played such an important part in the life of the town that few men had given it so much or left it more.

#### J. W. Harpster

Here was a man who believed in righteous, unpretentious living and proved his belief by living as he thought. If all the deeds of kindness performed by J. W. Harpster were included in this sketch of his life, there would be hundreds that would come to light, publicly, for the first time. He was not ostentatious in his living; for him, virtue, honor and clarity were rewards sufficient unto themselves and he asked no recognition of his qualities. However, they were not unrecognized. He was an honorable business man and during the many years he was in business, he enjoyed

the confidence and friendship of the whole community. He was allied with various business organizations and was a power in each of them. A hard, conscientious worker, ready to sacrifice his own opinions for the good of any cause to which he lent his support, he was a power always, and always for the good of the city. Personally, he was a kindly, pleasant sort of man, the kind of man everyone likes; he was high-minded, clean in thought and in his manner of living, and no one in Grinnell doubts that in his death a good man has been taken from us.

Although his health had not been good for some time, he was feeling fairly well only the night before he died. He had called on the Sam

Watson family—old neighbors, hearing that Mrs. Watson was ill, and it was characteristic of Jim Harpster that his last visit was a visit of thoughtfulness.

Funeral services were held at the M. E. church this afternoon at 2:30, conducted by Rev. George Blagg. Services at the grave were by the Masonic order.

James Wilson Harpster was born Jan. 16, 1855, at ~~Union~~ <sup>Union</sup>town, Pennsylvania, the only son of Thomas and Mary Ann Baker Harpster. He had three sisters, one of whom survives. He came to Iowa in March 1878, and immediately commenced working for Mr. D. F. Hayes on his farm in Chester Township.

On February 23, 1882, he was united in marriage with Denie Foss, of Union Bridge, Maryland. To this union were born five children, Jesse, who died at the age of one and one-half years; Mrs. Clarence Decatur, Mrs. E. J. Clynch and Mrs. Raymond Norris, all of Grinnell, and Mrs. G. B. Graves of Glenside, Pennsylvania, all of whom, together with his wife, sister and five grandchildren, survive him. Mrs. Mar-

garet Smith, sister, has made her home with the deceased since the death of her husband. The five grandchildren are: Ruth Decatur, Elizabeth Graves, James, Edward and Robert Clynch.

Early in life he united with the Lutheran church and later, when he came to Iowa, he transferred his membership to the Methodist church at Sonora, and still later when moving to his farm northwest of Grinnell, transferred his membership to the Methodist Episcopal church of Grinnell. He was also a member of the I. O. O. F. Lodge, the K. P. Lodge, the Masonic Lodge, and The Rebekahs.

On December 23, 1919, he became a director in the Mutual Home Loan and Savings Association, being elected to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of O. T. Frisbie. On February 7, 1922, he was elected President of the Association and has filled that office continuously up to the time of his death. During all the years he was connected with the Association, he has given the best of his time and energy in its interests. His courteous, kindly and upright dealing were always greatly appreciated by all with whom he came in contact.

# Death of J. W. Harpster

One of Grinnell's Most Useful Citizens Is Called to His Reward.

HAD MADE HOME IN COUNTY EVER SINCE 1878.

Has Been Prominent And Helpful in Activities of Community.

James Wilson Harpster was born January 16, 1855, at Lewistown, Pennsylvania, the only son of Thomas and Mary Ann Baker Harpster. He had three sisters, one of whom survives. He came to Iowa in March 1878, and immediately commenced working for Mr. D. F. Hays on his farm in Chester Township.

On February 23, 1882, he was united in marriage with Denie Fuss, of Union Bridge, Maryland. To this union were born five children, Jessie, who died at the age of one and one-half years; Mrs. Clarence Decatur, Mrs. E. J. Clynch and Mrs. Raymond Norris, all of Grinnell, and Mrs. G. B. Graves of Glenside, Pennsylvania, all of whom, together with his wife, sister and five grand children, survive him. Mrs. Margaret Smith, his sister, has made her home with the deceased since the death of her husband. The five grandchildren are: Ruth Decatur, Elizabeth Graves, James, Edward and Robert Clynch.

Early in life he united with the Lutheran church and later, when he came to Iowa, he transferred his membership to the Methodist church at Sonora, and still later when moving to his farm northwest of Grinnell, transferred his membership to the Methodist Episcopal church of Grinnell. He was also a member of the I. O. O. F. Lodge, the K. P. Lodge, the Masonic Lodge, and the Rebekahs.

On December 23, 1919, he became a director in the Mutual Home Loan and Savings Association, being elected to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of O. T. Frisbie. On February 7, 1922, he was elected President of the Association and has filled that office continuously up to the time

of his death. During all the years he was connected with the Association, he has given the best of his time and energy in its interests. His courteous, kindly and upright dealings were always greatly appreciated by all with whom he came in contact.

Funeral services were held at the home on Monday afternoon, Feb. 28, 1927 in charge of the Rev. George Blagg. The Masonic Order had charge of the services at the grave. Burial was made in Hazelwood.

Bearers were W. C. Rayburn, A. C. Harriman, Dr. E. B. Wiley, Geo. R. Kelley, J. C. Goodrich and F. P. Marvin.

Lutheran church and later, when he came to Iowa, he transferred his membership to the Methodist church at Sonora, and still later when moving to his farm northwest of Grinnell, transferred his membership to the Methodist Episcopal church of Grinnell. He was also a member of the I. O. O. F. Lodge, the K. P. Lodge, the Masonic Lodge, and the Rebekahs.

On December 23, 1919, he became a director in the Mutual Home Loan and Savings Association, being elected to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of O. T. Frisbie. On February 7, 1922, he was elected President of the Association and has filled that office continuously up to the time of his death. During all the years he was connected with the Association, he has given the best of his time and energy in its interests. His courteous, kindly and upright dealings were always greatly appreciated by all with whom he came in contact.

Funeral services were held at the home on Monday afternoon, Feb. 28, 1927 in charge of the Rev. George Blagg. The Masonic Order had charge of the services at the grave. Burial was made in Hazelwood.

Bearers were W. C. Rayburn, A. C. Harriman, Dr. E. B. Wiley, Geo. R. Kelley, J. C. Goodrich and F. P. Marvin.

Practically all the years Mr. Harpster has been a resident of Grinnell and Chester, he has been one of the outstanding men of the community. Honorable, square, courteous and active he left an impress on all who knew him, and will go down in the memory of men as one of Grinnell's best and most respected citizens.