
 *
 * DIED. *
 * 5 - 27 - 1914 *

Rufus LaGrange.

Rufus LaGrange, better known as "Dick" LaGrange, died last Wednesday morning at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Charles Giesking, 5 1/2 miles southeast of Marengo. For a time he had been failing under the onslaughts of Bright's disease and finally the time came when he lay sick and helpless in his little harness shop on Main street. On Tuesday his daughter came and took him with her in order that he might receive better care, but death came the following morning.

The funeral was held at 10 o'clock this morning and interment was made in the cemetery at Marengo. Mr. LaGrange was over 70 years of age.

"Dick" LaGrange has been one of Grinnell's characters for many years. He was an old soldier and cherished a badge conferred upon him for some act of special gallantry, but what that act was, no one among the old soldiers or his associates could be found yesterday who knew. It was known that he enlisted in Davenport when a mere boy and went south with his regiment which lost heavily in the first few months of the war. Later he saw service on a gunboat. It is reported that he also served as a scout and there is one story of his swimming the Mississippi river carrying his disbarrels in his mouth. The real truth is not known. He was not the man to tell of these things.

After the war, Mr. LaGrange came to Iowa county and was married there to Miss Mary Walker, a sister of Mrs. John Barr of this city. When the rush came to Kansas he went with it, taking his wife and three children. There were hard times in Kansas. The grasshoppers destroyed the crops and to cap the climax the wife and mother passed away. She is buried in Kansas.

Mr. LaGrange came back to Iowa with his motherless children, who were cared for by their grandmother in Marengo, while Mr. LaGrange came to Grinnell. That was back before the cyclone, and he has lived here ever since. He worked at first in P. D. Inman's harness shop. After Mr. Inman died he opened the little shop of his own in which the closing years of his life were spent. He became practically a recluse in these latter days. For a time he belonged to Gordon Granger Post, G. A. R., but finally withdrew from this and few saw him anywhere outside his shop.

Of his children, Mrs. Giesking is the only survivor. The others are buried in Marengo. He has two sisters, Mrs. Louise Clow, of Des Moines, and Mrs. Maggie Patterson, of Silver City, Mexico, and three brothers, Nelson, of Rock Island, Ill., Norman, of Pleasant Valley, and John, of Marengo. Jud LaGrange of this city is a nephew. He and Mr. and Mrs. John Barr went to Marengo this morning to attend the funeral.

5-29 Rufus J. Lagrange, 1914

Rufus J. Lagrange was born at New Scotland, N. Y., Nov. 23th, 1842, and died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Chas. Gieskieng at Marengo, Iowa, May 20th, 1914, being at the age of 71 years. He answered the call of his country and enlisted in Company E, 20th Iowa Volunteer Infantry and was honorably discharged January 3rd, 1863. Later, he re-enlisted in the army and served in the navy, being honorably discharged January 3, 1865. In the year 1870 he was married to Mary E. Walker, of Blairstown, Iowa. To this union were born three children, but one surviving. Also seven grandchildren and four sisters and three brothers are left to mourn their departed. His wife died in 1879 in Kansas and since that time he has made his home in Grinnell, Iowa, engaged in the harness business. He was a man highly respected by all who knew him.

The funeral services were held at the home of his daughter, Friday, May 22nd, Rev. Preston, of the Presbyterian church, officiating. The G. A. R. Post of Marengo, held services at the grave. Burial in the L. O. O. F. cemetery.

Norman Lagrange, of Pleasant Valley, John F. Lagrange and Mrs. Jesse Burkey of Marengo, brothers and sister of the deceased, and a nephew, Jud Lagrange, of Grinnell, were in attendance at the funeral.