

OBITUARY.

4-15-1919

Byram B. Martin.

Byram B. Martin was born near Greencastle, Putnam county, Indiana, on the 20th day of April, 1842, and departed this life on the 6th day of April, 1919, aged 76 years, 11 months and 17 days. He was the son of Robert and Lucy (Routte) Martin. The paternal grandfather was William Martin, a Methodist preacher who was born in Virginia during the war of the Revolution. His father, John Martin, was a soldier in that memorable struggle having served nearly the whole period of the war, and near its close sent a son, also named John, as a substitute, the latter being present at the surrender of Cornwallis. The subject's mother was a daughter of George and Catherine (Hendricks) Routte. This family came from Virginia and settled in Kentucky. Robert Martin, his father, was a native of Virginia and in his young boyhood the family moved to Bath county, Kentucky, where he subsequently met and married Lucy Routte. He and his wife located in Putnam county, Indiana, about 1825, where they entered land, the patents of which were signed by President John Quincy Adams. He remained in that locality until the year 1832 when he emigrated in covered wagons drawn by oxen to the state of Iowa, locating on the Des Moines river near Boone-born, Boone county.

To this union were born ten children, Byram B. Martin being the seventh. In the year 1857 the family moved to Poweshiek county, locating near Montezuma, where he remained with his father until July, 1862. Hearing his country's call he enlisted at Oskaloosa, Iowa, in company K, 18th Iowa volunteer infantry, and continued in the service until the close of hostilities, being mustered out at Rock Island in August, 1865, with a creditable record for

His regiment was assigned for duty west of the Mississippi and he participated in the battles of Springfield, Mo., Poison Springs, Ark., and the campaign against Price and the Red River. After his return from the war he drove a stage, carrying the mails between Montezuma and Oskaloosa. On the 12th day of June, 1867, he was united in marriage to Miss Mary Ferneau, daughter of Levi and Elizabeth (Taylor) Ferneau, who were both natives of Ohio. In the year 1868 they removed to Malcom, where they maintained their home until the death of the wife which occurred on the 27th day of April, 1917, and where he was engaged in the barber business until the year 1890 when under the Harrison administration he was appointed postmaster, and efficiently filled that office for four years. Upon his retirement from that position he embarked in the fire insurance business to which he gave his attention until 1917.

Mr. and Mrs. Martin became the parents of six children -- two sons and four daughters, as follows: Charles E., of Oakland, Calif., La Rue E. Blumenauer of Steubenville, Ohio, R. T. of Follansbee, W. Va., Mary A. Burford of Brooklyn, Iowa, Mrs. L. P. Raymond of Stillwater, Minn., and Lucy E. Graff, of Sheridan township, all of whom were in attendance at his funeral.

He was a member of Malcom lodge No. 369, I. O. O. F., the members of this order conducting the services at the grave. He was also a charter member of the Grand Army of the Republic post at Montezuma, Iowa, which was organized in 1866.

The death of Byram B. Martin removes from our midst one of the oldest settlers, and the last veteran of the Civil war in this community.

—Malcom Leader.