

The Grinnell Herald

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CHARLES R. MORSE.

Hon. Charles R. Morse was born at Randolph, Ohio, October fourteenth, 1837 and died at his home in Grinnell, Iowa, on April 9, 1905, so was in his sixty-eighth year.

When but a boy of about nineteen years he joined the army of emigrants which at that time was pouring like a flood into Iowa from the Buckeye state and made the trip across the prairies to Dubuque, enduring all the hardships which the life of the prairies had to offer to the traveller in those days. He had been there but a short time when Lincoln's call for men was sent out and he was among the early ones to respond to that call. Being a member of the regiment which was the pride of the state, the "Governor's Grays" as they were called, in which regiment his friend and neighbor H. B. Gifford was also enlisted, he went to Missouri where he served under the famous General Sigel till the time of enlistment was up. Receiving an honorable discharge he returned to his country's aid and re-enlisted with a regiment which was sent to New Orleans. Here he contracted a disease which never left him and was sent home to Dubuque where he was ill for some time.

Later he went into the grain business and at different times was concerned in business ventures at Chicago, Dubuque and Waterloo. In the early seventies Mr. Morse moved to Grinnell where he became the senior member of the grain firm of Morse and Whitney. After conducting a

successful business and building one of the largest grain elevators in the central part of the state they sold out to Dudley and Cass.

A little later the Merchants National Bank was organized and Mr. Morse was elected its vice president. With the departure of Col. S. F. Cooper to California Mr. Morse became its president in which position he served it well for some years. At the time of his death he was a faithful member of its board of directors.

Since 1882 he has been a member of the banking firm of C. W. H. Beyer and Company and as such his efforts have been marked with the same success that has always attended his business dealings.

While at Dubuque Mr. Morse married Miss Mary J. Conger and to them two daughters, Mrs. Nellie Morse Rugee and Mrs. Mabel Morse Spencer, were born, the latter of whom survives him.

Last winter Mr. Morse had the misfortune to fall and injure his spine. His constitution, impaired by the disease contracted in the army, was not able to withstand the nervous complications which followed and death resulted after months of illness. Funeral services were held from the fine residence on High Street and were conducted by Prof. L. F. Parker. The services were beautifully simple in accord with the preference of the deceased. Beautiful music was furnished by a quartette composed of Mrs. W. A. Heidel, Mrs. A. B. Mack and Messrs E. E. Brande and O. E. Parish. The remains were laid to rest in Hazelwood cemetery.

The deceased was a man who did not seek public attention and who would himself have desired no fulsome tributes after he had passed away. And indeed the best tribute to his life is the town which he

helped to build and which contains many lasting evidences of his efforts for it. He served his fellow citizens in many positions—as councilman, member of the school board and mayor—in each of them he was an honor to himself and his town which he served well. Though not himself a member of the Congregational church he was broad minded enough to serve it faithfully as a member of its board of trustees in former years. The church building itself stands as a monument more lasting than any epitaph to his generous efforts as a member of the building committee. Later he again showed the same interest by acting as a member of the committee which put in the church galleries. That he was a good business man and an honest man goes without saying in this community which has known him so well and so long and which will miss his presence. The college and many other public enterprises will have cause to remember his name long for his benevolences. In his home he was kind and indulgent and the love of children and grand-children are eloquent tributes to his tenderness as a parent. He was always hospitable and cheerful in his home and enjoyed the company of his friends. The sympathy of the whole community, which has lost a prominent and a useful citizen, goes out to those who have lost a beloved relative and a kind friend.

Those present from abroad at the funeral services were: Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Spencer of Mt. Vernon, Indiana, the latter a sister of the deceased and their daughter Mrs. Mary Hart of the same place, Mr. F. P. Rugee of Milwaukee, Mrs. Ezekiel Clark of Des Moines and Miss Pauline Dobson of Kirksville, Mo.