

The Grinnell Herald

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JOHN N. PARKS FUNERAL TODAY

Appropriate Services Were Held This
Morning From Congregational
Church.

WAS MEMBER OF ONE
OF THE EARLY FAMILIES.

Mr. Parks Was a Wellknown Artist
And Was Successful as a Painter
of Portraits.

In the passing of John Newton Parks there is taken from Grinnell the last surviving member of a family which in the earlier days was a notable one and which gave much to form the character of the earlier community. Until recently, Mr. Parks was unknown to those of our later citizens but in the earlier days when he lived here and where he enlisted for service in the Civil War, he was well known and liked. A painter by avocation, he has been interested in painting the portraits of many notable people. Quiet and modest in his manner, he lived his life in his quiet and true way without giving offense, yet always making friends by his true-heartedness and honesty of endeavor.

John Newton Parks was born in Victor, N. Y., in 1848, the son of Philo and Phoebe Forman Parks. He came to Grinnell with his parents in 1856. He enlisted in the army at the age of 18 and was a member of Co. B, 16th Iowa Infantry.

He was a student at Grinnell College with the class of '74. He studied art with Mr. Talbot in Grinnell and continued with artists in Chicago, New York and Boston. He had studios in Rochester, N. Y., where he made portraits of the Sibley family of Nursery Lane, in New York City, and Grand Rapids, Mich., where he was a member of the Park Avenue Congregational Church. He was a successful landscape painter but devoted himself to portrait painting and counted among his friends many whose portraits he had painted. His portrait of Governor Sherman hangs in the State Historical Building at Des Moines and one of Hon. Joel Stewart now hangs in the city library. He has also made several portraits of people connected with the college. Mr. Parks was the last of his father's family to pass away and is survived by four nephews and two nieces.

The following selection found among his papers shows the poetic soul and artistic nature of Mr. Parks, and will furnish beautiful thoughts for any who love nature and art.

"To me it seems as if when God conceived the world — that was poetry; He formed it — that was sculpture; He colored it—that was painting; He peopled it with living beings—that was the drama; and then we add: He breathed, and through every human pulse a something stole that held sublime communion with the soul; and those who listened understood something of life and spirit and blood, something of nature fair and good—and that was music.

Funeral services were held this morning at the Congregational church conducted by Mr. Vittum. The bearers were: G. H. Hamlin, J. R. Lewis, F. P. Marvin, A. W. Child, J. J. Grosvenough, and B. J. Ricker.

Present at the funeral from out of town were Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Moninger and two daughters of Marshalltown.