

2-24-1901 OBITUARY. 1901
WILLIAM PEXTON.

Another of the pioneer residents of Grinnell, a veteran of the 40th Iowa Volunteers, has joined the forces of "Our Army of the Dead."

William Pexton was born in Hampton (now Westmoreland), Oneida county, N. Y., July 24, 1832, — one of a family of six

children, of whom Mrs. Hannah Parker, of Grinnell, is the only surviving member — and died near Turton, Spink Co., South Dakota, January 26, 1901. He came to Grinnell in April, 1858, to assist his sister, Mrs. Alfred Bailey, in the management of the Bailey House (on the site of the Macintosh), then a station of the overland stage route from Iowa City to Des Moines, the Rock Island Railway terminus being Iowa City.

After the outbreak of the civil war he enlisted in the 40th Iowa Volunteers, and served as wagon master until mustered out in 1865, most of the time being spent in Arkansas, Kentucky and Mississippi. On February 6, 1864, he was detailed from Little Rock to go to Davenport for recruits. The journey by boat occupied nine days, and the railroad trip from Davenport to Iowa City consuming twelve hours, while two days more were spent in reaching Grinnell over the newly constructed railroad from Iowa City. About 400 recruits went south as a result of the expedition. At the close of the war, Mr. Pexton returned to Grinnell and worked at his trade as harness maker, residing here until 1883, when he took up a homestead claim in Spink Co., South Dakota.

May 9, 1873, at Hannibal, Missouri, he was married to Mrs. Maria Langworthy Abbot, a daughter of one of the pioneer families of Grinnell, who survives him. Mr. Pexton's death, while not entirely unexpected to his wife and neighbors, was still a great shock to them and to relatives and friends here. His health had been gradually failing for several years and an attack of grippe resulted in heart-failure, the end coming painlessly at sunset, Saturday, January 26, 1901.

A large-hearted friend, a kind neighbor, a loyal comrade, a tender husband has passed away. The remains were laid at rest at Turton, the public school and business houses closing for the funeral and neighbors coming from many miles of the surrounding country, to show their regard for the dead and sympathy for the bereaved, grief-stricken widow.