

BENJAMIN PORTER RANSOM.

Benjamin Porter Ransom was born in Sandy Creek, N. Y., Aug. 26, 1833, and died at Roswell New Mexico, Sept. 23, 1905.

Mr. Ransom came to Grinnell in 1883. He sold his home last June and sought restoration to health at Excelsior Springs Mo., A severe exposure had settled a cough upon him from which not being relieved he located pleasantly at Laeclade, Mo., near his farming interests. There it was discovered that his affliction was lung trouble to which he was made subject by an accident six years ago.

On his seventy-second birthday he was taken to Roswell, New Mexico, too late however, to afford him more than the relief of a dry climate.

He was of New England parentage, was educated at Belleville Academy, Jefferson Co., N. Y., was fitted for an accurate honorable business life with a successful merchant of Seneca Falls, and was also educated as a civil engineer at Aurora Academy. During the practice of his profession on the Erie Canal and Montezuma Aqueduct he met Louise M. Stephens, daughter of his contractor and formed the attachment of his life. After marriage June 20, 1863, he located at Benhard's Bay, N. Y., in charge of the glass works there. Although he was a considerate manager he could not cope with the distrust of highly paid skilled labor bent on joining a general strike. His small fortune was lost and he returned to Montezuma, N. Y., to start afresh, happy in the independent life of a farmer. Later they removed to Oneida for the education of their only daughter Anna. Here he engaged chiefly in civil engineering, being also deputy in the capacity of Canal Commissioner.

A severe attack of nervous prostration, however, necessitated abandoning a business life and having interests in Linn Co., Mo., he located in the west at Grinnell, Ia. During a summer sojourn in Brookfield, Mo., Mrs. Ransom died Sept. 4, 1887, and was taken to Oneida, N. Y., where the body of the husband now also lies at rest.

The home in Grinnell had been retained while Mr. Ransom's daughter spent several years in various places.

Mr. Ransom had a youthful heart but an old.