

1881  
MEMORIAL

Mr. Anor Scott, who died on the 12th inst. at the age of 70 years, was more than an early landmark in the founding and history of Grinnell. Dr. Sturtevant, his pastor, at the public funeral address in the church, voiced the sentiment of those who had known him so long and so well.

Further in honor of the deceased it may truthfully be said he was most worthily associated with whatever there is here of good. He was a good officer in our first town government; one of the twenty members in the founding of the Congregational Church 20 years ago, and a liberal and firm supporter of religion and Christian institutions. He was our first and only merchant for quite a period, securing a large trade by enterprise, fair dealing and leniency to his customers. A widespread credit in the money; epochs of 1857 brought trials, but never clouded his credit as an honest business man, and from that time on, more than the usual lot of prosperity was his which in life's evening brought him ease and financial prosperity in ample means which were freely given in enterprise and charity.

The situation he took in and was liberal in aid which secured our railroads, and contributed freely towards our College as well as towards the erection of the Stone Church. Mr. Scott was a Presbyterian, but held that there was little in a name, and had a dread of a multi-denition of weeds, staving churches. It was his thought that no good home could be found where there was not a Sunday and religious worship; hence not unmatured that most pleasantly he threw open his store for meetings, where counters and piles of cloth served for seats.

The town grew much as he desired it. Free liquor was his disgust, and good order with taste and intelligence, were the delight of his heart. Near the age of 50 years when he came to Grinnell, had doubts whether his age and habits would not make him a burden rather than a help; but that doubt is solved; he was a Christian gentleman where he was wanted, and many of the poor whom he trusted, and those treated leniently will not forget him. This is not the place to say what the counsel, aid and courage of his surviving wife were to him; it is only the truth that the deceased left gratitude for all, that the poor better appreciate, who had known life's reverses, by losses and the death of a wife and son, was

free to speak of mercies, when a painful disease had marked him for its victim. He had no child but was as a father to many. In his ways there was neither display or pretence; but simplicity and thought; in all, a man who prized his home of taste and comfort, and was abundant in sympathy and good deeds as a citizen which during weeks of wasting and confinement, brought him the respect and love of old friends, and made certain the consolations of that religion he had so long professed. If he had faults they are quite overshadowed by real virtues, and we cherish the pioneer, merchant, citizen, Christian, friend; a true man called to his reward, leaving us to love and to mourn.  
J. B. G.

RECORD OBITUARY, 1881

Mr. Anor Scott, whose death on the 12th inst. was mentioned in the RECORD of last Friday, deserves a fuller memorial than the brief notice then given.

He was the son of John and Phoebe (Strong) Scott. He was the fifth in a family of six children, and lost his father when only eight years of age.

His early life had many of the trials which generally fall to those left fatherless in youth. When quite a young man, he deliberately turned his back on the reckless pleasures which were common among his associates, and became a member of the Presbyterian Church. From Bridgewater, N. Y. (where he was born March 7, 1805), he removed to Verona, N. Y., and there followed the trade of a hatter. Thence, in 1831, he emigrated to Elyria, Ohio, in which place he buried his first wife and his only child. Twenty-seven years ago next August, he came, with the wife whom he has now left a widow, to reside in Grinnell. A man of Mr. Scott's energy and force of character, naturally exerted considerable influence in a new and growing community. When he came here, there were only three dwelling-houses in town— one near the present residence of Col. Cooper, one near the site of Mr. Henry Lawrence's residence, and the "long home"—though the frame of Dr. Peck's house was raised, and the store in which Mr. Scott immediately commenced business was about ready for occupancy. He was a judge of the first election ever held here, a member of the first board of town trustees, and one of the original members of the Congregational Church. Though he was in fact and from preference a Presbyterian, he was from principle opposed to the multiplication of churches. His store furnished, for some time, a meeting-house for the little congregation, and his liberal gifts since then have continued to prove his care for the work. He was greatly interested in the establishment of an institution of learning here, and in the removal of Iowa College to this place. To promote these ends, he was willing to be a liberal contributor. For some time he has not been in active business, and for more than a year he has been confined to the house. His death, at seventy-six, is hardly a surprise, for he is the last of his family. Yet the general closing of our business houses at the time of his burial, and the universal expression of our citizens, show with how much sadness the community regards the event of his death. Men die, but institutions and duties remain for those that come after them.