

JAMES H. SKEELS DIES FORWARD LEGIONARIES

Well Known Citizen and Mason Joins the Innumerable Caravan.

HAD LIVED IN AND NEAR GRINNELL 57 YEARS

Passed Away Feb. 11 Aged Nearly Fifty-Seven Years.

Many warm friends are mourning this week the death of James H. Skeels, who passed away at St. Francis hospital about 4:30 o'clock Wednesday morning, Feb. 11. Mr. Skeels had been ill for about two weeks from influenza and pneumonia, battling with heroic vigor against the grip of the disease. His condition was early pronounced serious and his children were summoned and they were here a week before his death came.

James H. Skeels was born near Grinnell March 20, 1863, his parents being Leander W. and Jane Cole Skeels. Dec. 24, 1883, he was united in marriage with Ida M. Case. Four children were born to this union, one son, Lloyd Ernest, dying in infancy. The others William Roy, of Chicago, Ethel May, Mrs. W. L. Cooley, of Albia, and Earl H. of this city.

Mr. and Mrs. Will Skeels and Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Cooley have all been here, and with the loving wife, and Mr. and Mrs. Earl Skeels, have all hoped against hope for his recovery.

Mr. Skeels was a man whom you liked better the longer you knew him. Quiet, industrious and affable he made friends everywhere. He was an active and enthusiastic Mason and has ably filled the chairs both in Hermon Lodge and in the Royal Arch Masons.

The funeral occurs at 2:30 today. At the home a short service will be conducted by Rev. W. C. Wasser. The Masons will have charge of the burial service at the cemetery.

Captain Carney and His Merry Y Will Meet Marshalltown Wednesday Evening.

WILL CLASH IN G GA

Red Hot

JAMES H. SKEELS

Story of a Poweshiek Pioneer Who Made Good In Everything.

WAS SIXTY-SEVEN YEARS A RESIDENT OF COUNTY

Built a Fine Block on Business Lot Three Years Ago.

It is a pleasure always for The Herald to recount the successes of a man who started from the farm or the shop and who by real force of character, industry and honest dealing made for himself a place of honor and respect in business and fraternity circles.

One of these men, who started as a hardworking boy, and became a man honored and respected by all, was James H. Skeels. He not only became known in business as a man who could be implicitly trusted but in Hermon Lodge he gained the highest honor the lodge could confer, and also attained the same honors as a Royal Arch Mason.

J. H. Skeels, a leading farrier of



J. H. SKEELS.

Poweshiek county for sixteen years past, proprietor of a well known blacksmith shop at Grinnell, was born in this county March 20, 1863, a son of L. W. and Jane E. (Cole) Skeels, who arrived in Poweshiek county shortly after J. B. Grinnell founded the town of Grinnell.

Mr. L. W. Skeels entered government land and began farming, but after the close of the Civil war went to California where he spent two years. He then returned to Poweshiek county

and removed his family to Kansas, living in that state about twelve years. Once more he took up his residence in this county and here he passed the remainder of his life. He died in 1909 at the advanced age of ninety-one years. He was a Republican in politics and he and his wife were both consistent members of the Methodist church and were greatly esteemed by their neighbors and friends.

J. H. Skeels acquired his education in the common schools. He early showed that he possessed mechanic talent of an unusual order and before he reached his seventeenth year apprenticed himself to the blacksmith's trade under Barnes Brothers in Grinnell. After finishing his apprenticeship he worked for the firm as journeyman for three years and then went to Lynnville, Iowa, where he operated a shop on his own account for a year. He next came to Grinnell and worked for seven years for J. Vanderveer, acquiring sufficient capital so that in May, 1895, he purchased the business from his employer and ever since conducted the shop in his own name. He was one of the best known and most prosperous blacksmiths in Poweshiek county. He made a specialty of horseshoeing and general jobbing and as he studied horseshoeing scientifically and in every detail, he was recognized as one of the most expert horseshoers in this part of the state.

In 1883 Mr. Skeels was united in marriage to Miss Ida May Case, of Grinnell, and to this union four children were born, three of whom survive, namely: William R., who is now wire chief of the Postal Telegraph Company, of Chicago, Illinois; Ethel May, the wife of W. L. Cooley, of Albia, Iowa; and Earl J., who is now living at home.

Mr. Skeels was in politics a progressive Republican. He took a great interest in public affairs and served as a member of the city council from the Second ward. As councilman he was trusted and his judgment was considered especially good and reliable.

He was an active worker in the Masonic order and held membership in Hermon Lodge No. 273, A. F. & A. M. and Palestine Chapter No. 101, R. A. M., both of Grinnell. From his boyhood he was ambitious, energetic, industrious and highly efficient in his work and he now rests from the toil of his uninterrupted labors. He was esteemed by his friends and neighbors and acquired a competency which he earned through honest labor.

In habits Mr. Skeels was clean and earnest, and in his daily life, at home, in business and in the lodge room he was a husband, a man and a brother above reproach.