

FATHER AND SON DROWN

Henry Spencer and Son Clark,
of Grinnell, Fall Into
Arbor Lake

FATHER SOUGHT TO RESCUE SON

Both Fell From Gasolene Launch —
Father Swam Out Then Returned to
Aid Young Man—Boat's Engine Pro-
pelled Craft Out of Their Reach —
Were Prominent Bankers.

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Grinnell, July 21.—The entire city participates today in the grief of the dreadful tragedy by which a wife loses at one stroke both husband and son, and a daughter loses father and brother. Henry C. Spencer and his son Clark, drove down to Arbor lake, in South Grinnell, just after tea last evening expecting to return soon for Mrs. Spencer and all would go out upon the lake. Mr. Spencer owned a fine gasoline launch in which the family and invited guests have had many pleasant rides. Father and son went out in the launch and had been riding some time, when the young man stood up to put on his coat. In some way, no one knows or ever will know, just how, he lost his balance and went overboard, and the impetus given to the launch by his fall was sufficient with the lurch of the boat to throw his father out also. The engine continued to work and the launch headed for the shore, and stuck fast in the mud of the bank. Mr. Spencer swam to the shore, but hearing his son's call for help, returned to him, and both seemed to struggle together in the water until they went down for the last time. Two little girls, daughters of John Hastings, who had charge of the boat house and the lake, were near a

row boat, and worked their boat up within a few feet of the drowning couple at the same time calling to them and trying to attract their attention. A couple of women were on the hill east of the lake near the house of Mr. Howard and saw the tragedy, but were powerless to avert it. They ran to the nearest telephone and help was summoned from the city as soon as possible. The news spread like wild fire and soon seemingly half the town was at the lake. It was nearly or quite an hour before the bodies were recovered, and probably nearly two hours more before the efforts to resuscitate the bodies were given up in despair. The loss of life was so sudden, so unexpected and so terrible in its peculiarity, and affected so wide a range of people because of the business position of Mr. Spencer, bringing him in daily contact with so many, that all feel it almost as a personal blow. Mr. and Mrs. Spencer had been back but a day or two from a visit they had been making in the west, and this is probably the first visit any of the family had made to the lake since their return. Had the two men been in a rowboat they could in all probability have saved themselves by clinging to the boat. But the machinery of the launch at once propelled it beyond their reach and left them with no resource but the ability to swim. It is said that the young man had not been feeling well for some time previous, and it might easily be that he was overcome by a sudden dizziness as he rose in the boat. The bodies were taken to the home and due announcement will be made of arrangements for the final ceremonies.

Henry C. Spencer was a man of about 51 years of age and has been in the First National bank almost since his boyhood. Upon the death of his father, who was accidentally killed in Denver in 1893, he was made cashier of the bank, a trust to which he has been faithful. He was for a number of years the efficient captain of Company K, I. N. G.

Clark Spencer, about 25 years of age, was a graduate of Iowa College, in the class of 1900, went into the bank as bookkeeper and was promoted to assistant cashier when S. J. Pooley left the First National to become cashier of the Savings bank.

Mr. H. C. Spencer has a brother, L. E. Spencer, living in Chicago, formerly in the Citizens' bank here, and a sister, Mrs. Mary E. Dudley, living in Manhattan, Col., where Mr. and Mrs. Spencer have so recently been visiting.