



HON. JOEL STEWART (1891)

All Grinnell Mourns Death of Joel Stewart

There will be sincere regret by all who have ever known him to learn of the death Sunday evening of Ex Senator Joel Stewart at the ripe age of 85 years. It was but a few days ago that Mr. Stewart was on our streets, strong, active and cheerful, with his warm-hearted greeting which endeared him to all.

The funeral services occur this afternoon at the Congregational church, conducted by Hermon Lodge No. 273. Rev. E. M. Vilham will offer prayer. O. N. Wagley, Custodian of the Grand Lodge of Iowa, of Newton will deliver the Masonic address, and President J. H. T. Main, representing Grinnell College, will make a short talk. Angus Dorsey Cain, of the School of Music Grinnell, will sing. Rhoda will be drawn in every street and place of business in Grinnell during the hour of the funeral. The casket will be open at the church from one o'clock until the hour of the service.

Joel Stewart was born on March 15, 1833, in Cockkill, Green county, New York, and spent his early youth in the east. About 1856 or 1858 he started for the gold fields of California, going from New York to Cuba by ship, walking across the Isthmus of Panama and again taking land to San Francisco. He spent three years at different points in California, returning to New York, where he went into business.

On September 6, 1858, he was married to Anna Marie Ruth Baber, and in Grinnell and soon after moved to this city. Here he showed his kindly and generous spirit by offering to build and donate to the city a public library. The ground on which it was built was donated by the Congregational Church Society and Stewart Library soon became a reality. This li-

brary has been ever since a special object of his solicitude and in many ways he has shown his generosity and love for it by contributing to its improvement.

In 1891 Mr. Stewart removed to Brookfield, Mo., where he lived about 12 years. Here his wife died, her body being brought to Grinnell for burial.

December 8, 1908, Mr. Stewart was married to Miss Helen J. Patrick, a relative of his first married wife, who had made her home in the family for several years. To this union one son was born, Joel Stewart, Jr. Miss Sarah Lamm, daughter of Myron L. Friend, has also made her home with them since they came to Grinnell.

During his residence in Missouri Mr. Stewart made frequent visits to Grinnell, for here were all his best interests.

He became a loyal friend of Grinnell College and many gifts were made to its endowment fund, until the total aggregated over \$20,000.

Though enthusiastic in working for the good, Mr. Stewart placed what he considered national duty above party spirit and, believing as he did in a gold standard for currency, he gave his support to Palmer and Buckner, but contributed liberally to the republican campaign in 1896.

Aside from his large farming interests, Mr. Stewart built the Stewart Block in Grinnell, now owned and occupied by C. A. Utah & Co. He was one of the organizers of the Grinnell Savings Bank and was for years a director and vice president. To his sagacious advice and financial backing much of its early success was due.

Mr. Stewart's contribution of a large Missouri farm made the Grinnell Foundation possible, and it was used,

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with willingness that they return
in a few months to pioneer Iowa.
Mr. Stewart was to have such
successful career in the land business.

After arriving here they boarded
Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Works for
a time and then moved to what is
now the Diehorn farm in the north-
west corner of Malcom township, put-
ting up the buildings that still stand
on this 800-acre piece. After farming
successfully here for twenty
years, they moved to town and lived
on the pleasant property now occu-
pied by D. E. Hays and family on east
fifth avenue.

Two years ago Mr. Stewart took
Mrs. Stewart with him to Missouri,
where he owned extensive farm lands
and has been raising cattle for the
past half dozen years. She was taken
ill last winter and was ill most of
the time, but part of the time was able
to be about the house. She died of
heart trouble on Monday afternoon at
10 o'clock.

Mrs. Stewart was a kind woman and
a good neighbor. All who knew her
admired her gentle spirit and her
willingness to help others. She was
devoted and loyal to her town and
her husband. When he first pro-
posed to her the erection of Stewart
highway in this city she instantly ex-
pressed her joy in such a gift, al-
though it was very large in propor-
tion to Mr. Stewart's wealth. She
is remembered here by hundreds of
people as a bright, cheerful,
able woman, to know whom was
privilege. The sympathy of the
community is extended to the hus-
band with the hope that in his loneli-
ness and declining years he may
return to the old home here, where
he will always find a welcome and
where the memory of his loving and
faithful comrade will always be kept
in mind.

without liquidation, to build up a new
and substantial system of financing the
college in its "Greater Grinnell" im-
provements.

Mr. Stewart's remarkable gift of
Stewart library to the city, and his
continued interest in it and all other
things relating to Grinnell develop-
ment, have marked him as a Grinnell
lover. And yet his gifts were not al-
ways so easily made. Many a back-
sight and forward sight can be seen in
his life, as he sought to do his duty and
in a good way, a time when he was
possessed and such a time passed an un-
realizable time.

Mr. Stewart was cosmopolitan and
generous in spirit. He was kind to all
and of the highest character. He was
a noble man, often he is remembered that
he could not contribute to the city and
money to make other things better. He
was little more to live for. Consistent
with this thought he gave much to
make other comfortable and fellowed
the injunction not to let the right hand
know what the left hand doeth.

Few men have been more completely
loved. Few men suffer the good
deeds which marked Mr. Stewart's
character and none have shown greater
love for their home town and his
people.

In 1861, came west to Iowa, Ill., where
he remained about a year and then
came on to Grinnell.

He first located northwest of Grin-
nell, near where Newburg now is,
where he secured about 1,500 acres of
mostly unbroken land, but soon moved
to the farm he owned so many years
nearly six miles northeast of the city.

Here he became known far and wide
as a successful farmer, shrewd, care-
ful, genial and influential. A democrat
of the old school, he was always inter-
ested in politics and took a leading
part in the policies of the party in
county and state; a man whose advice
was worth having and whose influence
was great.

In 1883 the party nominated him for
the lower Iowa house. He was made
the fusion candidate and was elected,
defeating Hon. Charles H. Spencer in
a republican county. He served the
county in the winter of 1884 in the 20th
general assembly.

In 1887 Mr. Stewart was nominated
for the senate in the Third Power
district, but was defeated by Senator
O. Terrell. In 1890, Gov. Payne, in
1891 he again became a candidate for
the senate, being supported on a fusion
ticket. However, Payne ran in
the same district with Rockwell county,
and Senator Stewart was elected over
Hon. C. F. Carter, and served in the
21st and 22nd general assemblies.

Mr. Stewart was always interested
in behalf of the city for her
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Resolved. That
Mrs. Anna M.
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J. C. WOOD, G. R. SNEEDS,
Committee on Evening Enter-