



HON. JOEL STEWART IN 1901

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. Vittum 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. Amon Dorsey Cain, of the School of Music faculty, will sing. Blinds will be drawn in every store 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 Catskill, Green county, New York, and spent his early youth in the east. About 1849 or 1850 he started for the gold fields of California, going from New York to Colon by ship, walking across the Isthmus of Panama and again taking boat for San Francisco. He spent three years at different points in California, returning to New York, where he went into business.

On September 6, 1856, he was married to Anna Marie Buch Haber, and

in 1867 came west to Joliet, Ill., where he remained about a year and then came on to Grinnell.

He first located northwest of Grinnell, near where Newburg now is, where he secured about 1,600 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, careful, genial and influential. A democrat of the old school, he was always interested 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 1885 Mr. Stewart was nominated for the senate in the Tama-Poweshiek district, but was defeated by Senator (afterwards Lieut. Gov.) Poyneer. In 1889 he again became a candidate for the senate, being supported on a fusion ticket. Poweshiek was then in the same district with Keokuk county, and Senator Stewart was elected over Hon. C. F. Craver, and served in the 23d and 24th general assemblies.

Mr. Stewart was always interested

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 1901, 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, 1903, Mr. Stewart was married to Miss Helen J. Patrick, a relative of his deceased wife, who had made her home in the family for several years. To this union one son was born, Joel Stewart, Jr. Miss Sarah Lamme, daughter of Missouri friends, 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 heart interests.

He became a loyal friend of Grinnell College and many gifts were made to its endowment fund, until the total aggregated over \$60,000.

Tho an enthusiastic working democrat, 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. Blair & 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,

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

Mr. Stewart's remarkable gift of Stewart library to the city, and his continued interest in it and all other things relating to Grinnell development, have marked him as a Grinnell lover. And yet his gifts were not always so easily seen. Many a broken heart and bowed spirit can testify to Mr. Stewart's kindly aid in money and in word at a time when need was pressing and such help proved an untold blessing.

Mr. Stewart was cosmopolitan and patriotic in spirit. He believed in and loved the human side of life for its own sake. Often he remarked that if we could not contribute both heart and money to make others happy, there was little here to live for. Consistent with this thought he gave much to make others comfortable and followed the injunction not to let the right hand know what the left hand doeth.

Few men have been more companionable. Few men scatter the good cheer which marked Mr. Stewart's welcome; and none have shown greater love for their home town and its people.