

James Francis Adkins

Another of the few Civil War veterans in this community answered the last bugle call Saturday morning at five o'clock in the passing of "France" Adkins, one of the pioneers of Jasper County. Mr. Adkins had been in ill health for the past year but was able to go about his daily duties. On Wednesday last, he was apparently as well as usual and was taking advantage of the warm autumn day in preparing his household for winter. It was a busy, fruitful day. But on Thursday morning, about two o'clock he was suddenly stricken with paralysis, immediately becoming unconscious and remaining so until his death.

Funeral services were conducted from the home yesterday afternoon by Rev. R. L. Keeton.

Pallbearers were: Chris Reutter, Henry Ahrens, Harry Crowder, Geo. Smith, Dwight Pearce, and W. C. Smith. Honorary bearers were his comrades of the G. A. R. Those from a distance to attend the services were Mrs. C. C. Rice of Selby, S. Dak., Lee Adkins of Des Moines. Interment was at Hazelwood.

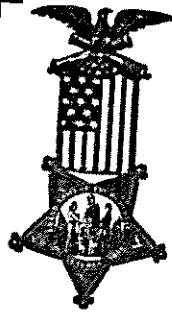
James Francis Adkins, son of Rachel Williams and Benjamin Adkins, and the eldest of a family of nine children, was born July 30, 1844 near Monticello, Wayne Co., Kentucky. He sprang from a sturdy American pioneer family. His grandfather, Benjamin Adkins, with his wife, Katie Stockstill, and their sisters were among the first settlers of Kentucky, making the long journey from North Carolina with one of the Daniel Boone parties. Two of his grandfather's sisters were killed by the Indians on this journey.

Mr. Adkins' early life was spent on the farm with his parents. At the age of 18 he enlisted with Co. D, 30th

Kentucky Mounted Infantry of the Union Army and remained in service until the end of the war. Soon after these turbulent days, he came to Iowa, about August 25, 1865. A few relatives had preceded him in emigrating to the north. The following fall he made the long journey back to Kentucky for his bride, Sidney Jane Parmley, to whom he was married on October 7, 1866. They came back to Iowa to make their home and settled near Kellogg. Nine children were born to this union, eight of whom are living. They are: Mrs. Mary Alice Rice of Selby, S. Dak., Mrs. Florence A. Dearing of Waltham, N. Dak., William M., Robert H., Fred M., Dr. Louis M., all of Grinnell. Mrs. Gertrude Reutter of Malcom and Mrs. Geneva Ahrens of Grinnell. The ninth child, now deceased, was Mrs. Alta A. Matteson.

Later, he moved with his family to the farm now owned by Henry Ahrens three miles west of town, living there for 29 years. In the fall of 1905 they went to California where they spent the winter and upon their return moved to Grinnell where he has lived until his death, Saturday, September 27, 1924.

On October 7, 1916, Mr. and Mrs. Adkins celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. On this day of happy memories, he had with him his aged mother, Mrs. Rachel Adkins who preceded him in death only by a few months, all his living children and their families together with the Civil War veterans and their wives.



Grand Army of the Republic

JAMES FRANCIS ADKINS

2015 will mark the 150th anniversary of the end of America's Civil War. Grinnell Historical Museum volunteers Karen Groves, Ann Igce, Julie Young and Shane Estes have created biographies of the 28 Civil War veterans who were participants in a project just after World War I to photograph Civil War veterans. The Nina Wayne Grau Studio photographed the Grinnell veterans in 1922. Over 200 Civil War veterans are buried in Hazelwood Cemetery, including most of the veterans photographed in 1922. Here is one of those portraits and biographies:

James Francis Adkins was the grandson of Benjamin and Kate Stocksall Adkins who were among the first settlers of Kentucky. Several members of the Adkins family migrated west from North Carolina to what became Kentucky with one of the Daniel Boone parties. Two of Benjamin Adkins' sisters were killed by the Indians on the journey.

Adkins, the son of Benjamin and Rachel Williams Adkins, was born July 30, 1844, and was the eldest of a family of nine children. He enlisted in the Union Army in 1864 at the age of 18 and served as a member of Company D, 30th Kentucky Mounted Infantry during the civil war. He saw action operating against guerillas in Kentucky as well as along the Virginia-Tennessee border.

In August 1865 he immigrated to Iowa where some relatives had already settled. He went back to Kentucky to marry Sidney Jane Parmley

October 7, 1866, and brought her back to Iowa where the two settled near Kellogg. Later they moved to a farm west of Grinnell where they lived 29 years before retiring to 1209 Summer Street and eventually to 627 Main Street in Grinnell. They celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in 1916.

The couple had nine children, Mary Alice Rice, Florence Dearinger, William Adkins, Robert Adkins, Fred Adkins, Louis Adkins, Gertrude Reutter, Geneva Ahrens and Alta Matteson.

Edward Adkins of Grinnell is a

great grandson of the Civil War veteran. His grandfather was Robert Hudson Adkins, known as "Hutz," and his father was Verlin Adkins.

Adkins was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic after the war and died September 27, 1924. He was buried at Hazelwood Cemetery.

