

"There Shall Be One Vacant Chair"



WILLIAM BORTELL
Commander of Gordon Granger
Post, G.A.R., is buried today.

Death Calls Wm. Bortell

Once More Ranks of Grinnell's
Civil War Veterans Have
Been Thinned

**WAS COMMANDER OF GOR-
DON GRANGER POST, G.A.R.**

Funeral Services Were Held This
Afternoon From Methodist
Church

The thinning ranks of the veterans of the Civil War suffered another loss when William Bortell, for many years an honored and respected citizen of Grinnell passed away at the home of his daughter, Mrs. E. E. Hayes. If Mr. Bortell had lived three weeks longer he would have been 91 years old.

Funeral services were held this afternoon from the Methodist church, conducted by Rev. W. J. Fowler. Appropriate music was furnished by a male quartet composed of Keith Vine, E. G. Peterson, E. L. York and Rev. W. J. Fowler, who sang "Jesus, Lover of My Soul", "Rock of Ages", and "Tenting Tonight". Pall bearers were R. G. Coutts, T. S. Mason, Norman Pilgrim, W. H. Alley, Wm. Harris, and Martin Eichhorn. Mr. Bortell rests with so many of his comrades who wore the blue, in Hazelwood cemetery, where for so many years he had come to the

William Bortell, the son of Emanuel and Katherine Bortell, was born in Patterson, Juniata county, Pennsylvania, May 8, 1842. His service in the Union army began with President Lincoln's call for volunteers. He enlisted in Company A of the 1st Pennsylvania cavalry, with which he saw active service for four years, mostly in Virginia. After the battle of Gettysburg Mr. Bortell was detailed as orderly and carried messages to President Lincoln. Immediately after his discharge he returned to his home in Mifflin, Pa.

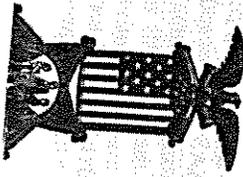
He was married to Miss Susan Noon at Port Royal, Juniata county, Pa., August 5, 1865. Six children were born to this union, one of whom, Rebecca, died in infancy. The five surviving children are Mrs. Laura Hayes, Irvin Bortell and Mrs. Kate Neely, all of Grinnell, Mrs. Maude Davis, of Morrowville, Kans., and Mrs. Hattie Bump of Monroe. All the children were at their father's bedside when he passed away. No more devoted family could be found anywhere than this.

Mr. Bortell united with the Methodist church in Grinnell in 1875 and was the oldest member of the church when he died. His wife preceded him in death July 3, 1917.

He has always taken a great interest in the affairs of the G.A.R. and at the time of his death was commander of Gordon Granger Post.

He is survived by his five children, six grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

of the Grand Army of the Republic



The Grinnell Herald-Register, Thursday, July 24, 2014 — page 8

2015 will mark the 150th anniversary of the end of America's Civil War. Grinnell Historical Museum volunteers Karen Groves, Ann Igoe, Julie Young and Sharré Esbes 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:

WILLIAM BORTELL

William Bortell was born May 8, 1842, in Patterson, Pa., the son of Emanuel and Katherine Bortell. He enlisted in Company A of the First Pennsylvania Cavalry unit in 1861. The unit spent most of its time in Virginia and participated in the famous battle of Gettysburg in Pennsylvania. Bortell's company was on detailed duty in Maryland when the orders came to speed to Gettysburg. The company, full of youth and filled with all the zest and happy-go-luckiness of young life, rode steadily to Gettysburg.

In an interview, Bortell recalled that it was a hot Saturday afternoon, July 3, 1863, when they arrived. The company was under General Hancock, who had taken the left wing guard. General Hancock reported that Pickett, the southern general, was advancing. He said the Union failure to defeat Southern troops decisively at Gettysburg was one of the darkest days of the war. The following day, July 4, 1863, the Union army captured Vicksburg Miss., and from then on, the tide swung in favor of the North and the Union was saved. After Gettysburg Bortell was detailed to the duty of orderly and carried messages to President Lincoln.

Although he was in the very thick of the fighting for four years, including scouting on the Rappahannock and the hard-fought battles in Manassas, Mount Jackson, New Market, Harrisonburg, Cross Keys, Cedar Mountain, Brandy Station, Thoroughfare Gap, Chantilly, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Antietam and Gettysburg, Bortell

was never wounded but had several narrow escapes. Immediately after his discharge, he returned to his home in Mifflin, Pa.

He was married to Susan Noon at Port Royal, Pa., on Aug. 5, 1865. Six children were born to them: Laura



Bortell Hayes, Irvin Bortell, Kate Bortell Neely, Maude Bortell Davis, Hattie Bortell Bump and Rebecca who died in infancy.

The three older children were young when the family came west in 1871 and located near Marshalltown on land that was open prairie with big tumbleweeds blowing across the fields. One daughter re-

membered their mother telling the children that the Indians were coming, and the fear made her keep the doors locked in the daytime when Bortell was away working. He was a carpenter and immediately obtained work in helping to build the Iowa Central Railroad from Marshalltown to Quincy, Ill.

The family moved to Grinnell and lived at 403 East St. for a number of years. At the age of 87 Bortell was still quite active and made several "pilgrimages" back to Pennsylvania to his home town of Mifflin and to the battlefield at Gettysburg.

The Bortells became members of the Grinnell Methodist Church in 1875. William Bortell was the oldest member of the church when he died on April 21, 1933, at the age of 90. He also had taken a great deal of interest in the affairs of the Grand Army of the Republic, the organization composed of veterans of the Civil War, and was commander of the Gordon Granger Post in Grinnell at the time of his death.