

Grand Army of the Republic

MILO MORGAN

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 Shane Estes have created biographies of men who were participants in a local 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:

Milo Morgan was born on Jan. 1, 1831, in Springfield, Ill., to John and Nellie Willcockson Morgan. When he was 20 years old, he came to the eastern part of Poweshiek County and, in 1853, he became the first settler in Lincoln Township. He broke prairie in Section 36, then returned to Illinois, and in the spring of 1854 moved back to Lincoln Township and made it his permanent settlement.

He and Susan-nah G. Robertson, also a Lincoln Township resident, were the first people married in the township when they were wed on July 31, 1856. Their new house of two rooms was not completed, but the carpenters were working on it.

When the newly-married couple arrived, no floors had yet been laid in the new house. Carpenters and newlyweds soon got enough floor laid so the stove could be set up and dinner prepared. By nightfall the floor was finished so the couple could move the rest of their furniture in. This was the beginning of what was described as a happy and carefree life the couple lived in their new house where the four oldest of their ten children were born.

Morgan knew both the grief and the enjoyment of the pioneer life, and many interesting stories of the early days always remained in his memory. His home was always open to strangers, whoever they might be. He welcomed widows and orphans when they were homeless. Even as a young man he felt Sunday school was important and organized one at Deep River.

The call came for volunteers for the army to fight the Civil War, and Morgan joined Company C of the 28th Iowa Infantry on Aug. 2, 1862. By this time the Morgans had four children, and Susannah remained at home to care for their children.

Some of the battles that Morgan's unit participated in were Helena, Grenada and Yazoo Pass. He was discharged in February of 1863 with the rank of sixth corporal.

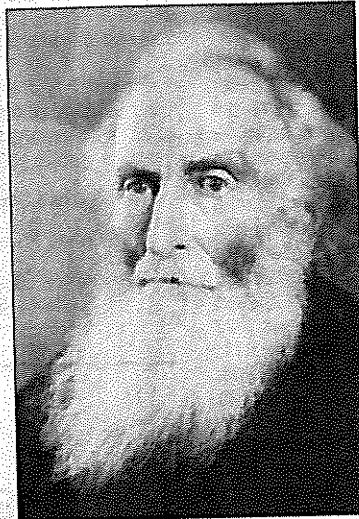
In 1869 the Morgan family moved to a farm in Washington Township. In 1894 the family

moved into Grinnell and lived at 309 Broad St.

The ten Morgan children were William Morgan, Dola Morgan Buskirk, A.J. Morgan, Mrs. George Champlin, Mrs. Louis Buskirk, J.D. Morgan, H.W. Morgan, Mrs. S.A. Tish, Mrs. E.H. Reavis and C.H. Morgan.

In 1906 the couple celebrated their golden anniversary which included about 25 fellow members of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), an organization of Civil War veterans. A gift from Morgan's GAR comrades was a box of hardtack. Carefully concealed in the bottom of the gift were two \$5 gold pieces. His comrades in Company C of the 28th Iowa Infantry who lived in Montezuma presented him with an appropriately engraved gold-headed cane.

Milo Morgan was considered Grinnell's oldest resident when he passed away on Jan. 20, 1929, 19 days past his 98th birthday. He was buried at Hazelwood Cemetery.



CH-R 19-29-2014