

The Grinnell Herald

RAY & FRISBIE
PUBLISHERS.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 1925.

JOHN N. PARKS FUNERAL TODAY

Appropriate Services Were Held This
Morning From Congregational
Church.

WAS MEMBER OF ONE
OF THE EARLY FAMILIES.

Mr. Parks Was a Wellknown Artist
And Was Successful as a Painter
of Portraits.

In the passing of John Newton Parks there is taken from Grinnell the last surviving member of a family which in the earlier days was a notable one and which gave much to form the character of the earlier community. Until recently, Mr. Parks was unknown to those of our later citizens but in the earlier days when he lived here and where he enlisted for service in the Civil War, he was well known and liked. A painter by avocation, he has been interested in painting the portraits of many notable people. Quiet and modest in his manner, he lived his life in his quiet and true way without giving offense, yet always making friends by his true-heartedness and honesty of endeavor.

John Newton Parks was born in Victor, N. Y., in 1848, the son of Philo and Phoebe Furness Parks. He came to Grinnell with his parents in 1858. He enlisted in the army at the age of 18 and was a member of Co. B, 68th Iowa Infantry.

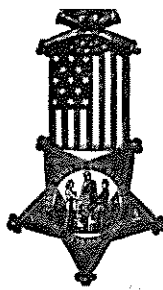
He was a student at Grinnell College with the class of '71. He studied art with Mr. Talbot in Grinnell and continued with artists in Chicago, New York and Boston. He had studios in Rochester, N. Y., where he made portraits of the Elliot family of Nursery Island in New York City and Grand Rapids, Mich., where he was a member of the Park Avenue Congregational Church. He was a successful landscape painter but devoted himself to portrait painting and counted among his friends many whose portraits he had painted. His portrait of Governor Sherman hangs in the State Historical Building at Des Moines and one of Hon. Joel Stewart now hangs in the city library. He has also made several portraits of people connected with the college. Mr. Parks was the last of his father's family to pass away and is survived by four nephews and two nieces.

The following selection found among his papers shows the poetic soul and artistic nature of Mr. Parks, and will furnish beautiful thoughts for any who love nature and art.

"To me it seems as if when God conceived the world—that was poetry; He formed it—that was sculpture; He colored it—that was painting; He peopled it with living beings—that was the drama; and then we add: He breathed, and through every human pulse a something stole that held sublime communion with the soul; and those who listened understood something of life and spirit and blood, something of nature fair and good—and that was music.

Funeral services were held this morning at the Congregational church conducted by Mr. Vittum. The bearers were: G. H. Hamlin, J. R. Lewis, F. P. Marvin, A. W. Child, J. J. Groenbaugh, and B. J. Ricker.

Present at the funeral from out of town were Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Moninger and two daughters of Marshalltown.



Grano Army of the Republic

JOHN NEWTON PARKS

2015 will mark the 150th anniversary of the end of America's Civil War. Grinnell Historical Museum volunteers Karen Groves, Ann Iggoe, 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:

John Newton Parks was born July 31, 1848, in Victor, N.Y., to Philo and Phoebe Farnham Parks. He came to Grinnell with his parents in 1856 at the age of eight. Philo Parks was a well-known horticulturist with an artistic taste. His home was noteworthy for its beautiful landscaping. He was given charge of the park in Grinnell, planting the first trees taken from his own woodland.

Young John's first known works were figures cut in marble for the cemetery. His first painting lessons were given to him by Mrs. H. W. Parker in Grinnell. D.L. Talbott, a local artist who had a studio in Grinnell, accepted a few students who showed artistic talent, and it was in Talbott's studio

that John Newton Parks developed his talent for portrait painting.

At 16 years of age, Parks enlisted in the army at Davenport on June 10, 1864, as a member of Co. B. 46th Iowa Infantry for 100 days. The 46th Iowa Infantry was made up of men from two colleges, Tabor and Iowa College, now known as Grinnell College. Grinnell College furnished a professor and every student who was eligible for military duty.

The company was ordered to Memphis, Tenn., on June 20, 1864, and then on to Collierville, Tenn. on June 27, 1864, where it was assigned guard duty on the Memphis & Charleston Railroad until September of 1864. The unit was involved in action near Collierville on July 24, 1864, as a detachment of Company I, and participated in the repulse of Confederate troops led by Nathan Bedford Forrest who attacked Memphis on Aug. 21, 1864.

Parks mustered out of the military on Sept. 23, 1864.

During service, his regiment lost one enlisted man killed in action and 27 through disease.

John Newton Parks became a portrait artist in 1870 while living in Grinnell and attending Grinnell College. He graduated from Grinnell College in 1875 and then studied

in Chicago at the Art Students League under C.Y. Turner.

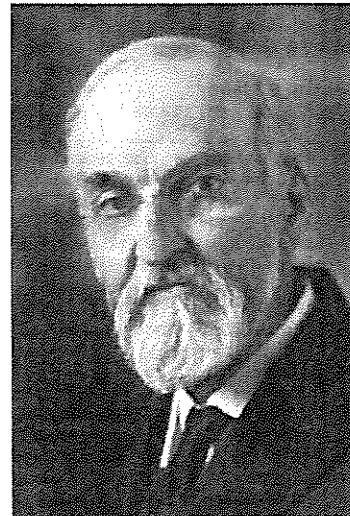
In Iowa Parks was known for having painted portraits of members of the town's founding generation, including J.B. and Julia Grinnell, Dr. Holyoke, and Mr. and Mrs. Craver. A painting of Grinnell College's President Magoun, commissioned by the

college, was destroyed in the 1882 cyclone. He also painted portraits of the early Iowa Governors for the Capitol in Des Moines.

By 1880 Parks was living in Michigan and by 1900 had moved to Rochester, N.Y. In Rochester he painted two portraits of Susan B. Anthony. He is also known to have painted portraits in Boston and Washington, D.C.

The "Recovered Treasures: Saving Iowa's Painted Past" exhibit displayed an oil on canvas portrait of Governor Samuel Jordan Kirkwood, 1813-1894, painted by John Newton Parks in 1877. Kirkwood was Governor during most of the Civil War and worked hard to supply the Union Army with both men and supplies.

At the time of his death on January 25, 1925, Parks was a resident of Marshalltown. He was buried at Hazelwood Cemetery.



Parks John Newton

64-R 10-13-2014