

Dawson W. Pugh Dies At Camp Cody, Deming, N.M.

Death Occurs at Camp Cody Saturday
Last From Spinal Meningitis
After Week's Sickness.

AMONG FIRST TO ENLIST
WHEN WAR BROKE OUT

Parents Go to His Bedside, And Bring
Body Home, Arriving On
Monday.

The great war came nearer to Grinnell this week than ever before when all that is mortal of Dawson William Pugh, one of our noblest young men, who was among the first to give heed to his country's call, was brought home for interment.

The death of the young man took place at Camp Cody, Deming, New Mexico, Saturday, September 21, at 3:30 A. M. He was stricken a week before with spinal meningitis. The disease, struck hard, and almost from the first his life was despaired of.

The parents of deceased, Mr. and Mrs. William Pugh, who reside a mile west of Grinnell, were notified by wire of their son's serious condition, September 14, and the next day they left for Camp Cody. They arrived before their son passed away, and it was a satisfaction to them that he recognized them. His mind remained clear except when he was under the influence of drugs given him to lessen his excruciating pains.

The day of the departure of Mr. and Mrs. Pugh from Deming with the body of their son, a military funeral was held in his honor, which was attended by his company enmasse, a great number of other soldiers of the cantonment and many nurses from the hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Pugh arrived here with their dead at 1 P. M. They were accompanied by a comrade of their son, Private Emil Rentrott, who was detailed to come with the body and remain until after the obsequies.

The funeral was held the same day at 3 o'clock from the Grinnell M. E. church, services being conducted by the pastor, Rev. J. M. Brown. The funeral was very largely attended by friends, neighbors and sympathizers. The pall bearers were two brothers of deceased, Roy Pugh and Paul Pugh, two brothers-in-law, Louis Haffey and Harry Glaspie, and two wara friends, Ben Buck and Norman Piskum. The interment was in Hazelwood cemetery.

The business houses of the city were closed during the funeral in respect to the soldier dead.

Dawson W. Pugh was born at Blue Point, Poweshiek county, about ten miles south of Grinnell, November 2, 1892. All of his short life, until he left for the cantonment, he had lived in this vicinity. He attended the Grinnell high school for two and one-half years where he made a good record.

When the war with Germany broke out he was among the first to offer his services to his country. He enlisted in the first part of May, 1917, and became a member of Co. D, First Iowa Cavalry.

In September of the same year he went with his company to Camp Cody,

The first duty assigned him was assisting a surgeon, and in this he became very proficient.

Later he was assigned to the tele-



DAWSON W. PUGH.

phone system where he was working when stricken.

Deceased was a member of the Methodist church, and lived a faithful Christian life. Whether at work, in a school or in the service of his country he always strove to do his best. He was ambitious to make the very most of his life, and lived truly a life of service. Knowing well the desperate chances he was taking and ever thoughtful of those he would leave behind should he fall, he had taken out a government insurance policy of \$10,000.

The home coming of this dead soldier, a mere boy in years, the first of his kind since the war began, has caused unusual sorrow in this city and the countryside. Death is sad at any time and under any circumstances, but it is doubly so when it comes in the morning of life to one giving promise of so much.

Such is war. This community will be indeed fortunate if it escapes other like events, or sadder still the fall of our boys over there, when there can be no homecoming.

Mr. and Mrs. Pugh found everyone at Deming willing and ready to help them and have only appreciative words for all.

In speaking of Dawson Pugh at the funeral the pastor, Mr. Brown, spoke with much feeling of the fact that this was the first gold star for the M. E. church and Sunday school and exhorted all to do honor to the soldier who had given his life for his country and home.

That Dawson was popular with his associates is indicated by the letter received yesterday morning by Mr. and Mrs. Pugh from his associates at Deming. The letter contained a check for \$50 and the most kind and appreciative words which appear elsewhere in this issue. Mr. and Mrs. Pugh will cherish this letter thro' all the years and it will be a much-valued reminder of the faithfulness to duty of a loved son.

T. C. Censura took a trip thro Keokuk county last week and is pleased with

Pugh, Dawson
GH 9/27/1917