

Lawson Butler

Marshalltown Evening Times-Republican

4 November 1899

Grinnell, Nov. 4.—Lawson Butler, the colored man who was partially paralyzed some months ago, is dead. He had improved so far as to be able to walk a little, and hopes were entertained that he might finally recover, but lately dropsy set in, his feet and legs became swollen to a great size, confining him to bed for some days. His death was sudden but not unexpected. Lawson Butler followed an Iowa regiment home from the south and was attached to the company commanded by Capt. Head. He has lived here all the time since, supporting himself by his labor and the proceeds of a garden which he owned.

From the notes of Dan Kaiser, Grinnell historian:

Lawson Butler (1830?-1899) was born in Mississippi; his spouse was Belle Butler, whom he evidently married in the 1870s, tho' I've so far not found a record of the marriage. Lawson Butler was a white-washer in the 1870s, later known only as a "laborer." His death notice appeared in the Marshalltown Evening Times-Republican, 4 November 1899.