

## William Wells Berry Dies Friday At Jasper Co. Hospital

Feb. 2-15-1954  
"Bill" (William Wells) Berry, well known Grinnell steam engineer died shortly after noon Friday, Feb. 12, at the Jasper County hospital near Newton at the age of 93 years and two months. Death followed old-age complications. He had really suffered serious illness only for the past two years.

Mr. Berry was born Dec. 17, 1860, at Bloomington, Illinois, son of Thos. V. Berry and Michael Wells Berry. He was married in Grinnell, Ia., to Marina C. Logan.

Mrs. Berry preceded him in death years ago. Surviving children are: Mrs. W. R. Bump of Phoenix, Ariz.; George Berry of Ewart, Ia.; Mrs. Leota Martin of California; Esther Stuart of Denver, Colo., and 14 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Mr. Berry came to Grinnell in 1885 as an engineer with the old Iowa Central railway (now the M & St. L.). He served the railroad in that capacity until he was disabled in a train wreck, in which wreck he lost a leg. After he had partially recovered from that tragedy, he was made stationery engineer for the railroad, and for some time was in charge of pumping water for the system at G & M junction on the railroad that once operated between Grinnell and Montezuma. At the same time he often supplied, to pump water at Steamboat Rock.

When Dr. E. W. Clark was mayor of Grinnell, many years ago, Mr. Berry was at the head of the local fire department. In fact, he is said to have been the first salaried fireman in Grinnell.

And, he was trainer of the famous E. W. Clark hose team. V. G. Preston, Sam Pooley and Ira Goodrich of Grinnell were volunteers in the department at the time of that famous team.

Mr. Berry was also the first engineer at the Grinnell city water works.

Funeral services will be held Tuesday at 2 p.m. at Smith's funeral home, in charge of Rev. C. E. Kingsley, and burial is being made at Hazelwood cemetery here.

Pallbearers will be Fred Adkins, George Decatur, John Harter, Robert Lincoln, George Selle and Burt Speth. Organ music will be played by E. H. Bohstedt.