

FRIDAY, JULY 9, 1926.

HENRY M. BRAY ANSWERS CALL

One of Grinnell's Honored Pioneers
Reaches Close of Long and Useful
Life.

**FUNERAL SERVICES WERE
HELD THIS AFTERNOON.**

Mr. Bray Exercised a Potent Influence in Building Up This Community.

When a pioneer dies whose life has been marked by industry, thrift, good deeds and honest living, a thrill of sadness passes over the community in which he has lived for so many years. Henry M. Bray and his young and worthy wife came to Grinnell in 1869. They located for a year on the Dr. Lewis farm west of Grinnell just over the county line. For a few years they lived on the Bailey farm about three miles north-east of the business center of Grinnell and then Mr. Bray brought the large farm which he conducted until 1882 with great success. He was fond of stock and although he came from a locality where the chief product of the soil was rocks, where the ground barely gave the farmer a reasonable subsistence, he early appreciated the delights of stock farming and during his years on the large farm now known as the Mehlman farm, he gave his attention to raising and shipping stock. He was a successful farmer and his wife was an able helper to him in forwarding his plans for success and competence.

Henry M. Bray was born in Granby, province of Quebec, January 10, 1843. He died at 7:30 o'clock, July 7, 1926 at the home of his daughter, Mrs. M. W. Swisher, at the age of nearly eighty-three and one-half years.

He was the second member of a family of ten children, two of whom died in early life.

When he was ten years old his parents moved to Danville, Vermont, where he was raised and educated. In the winter of 1863 he enlisted in Company G, 17th Vermont Infantry, serving until the close of the war when he received his honorable discharge. With his brother Tom he was in the Army of Virginia and took part in many of the hardest fought battles among which were the Wilderness, Spottsylvania Court House, Cold Harbor and in the battles around Petersburg. In one of these battles his brother Tom was seriously wounded and Henry took him and made his way through shot and shell to the rear of the lines where he was cared for and finally re-covered. At Petersburg Henry was taken prisoner and was confined in Libbey prison for several months.

It will be noted that he enlisted when he was just past twenty years of age and was still a young boy, but he was imbued with the patriotic fervor of many another hardy youth of the north and risked his life in defense of the Union which he had learned to love though only a resident of this country for ten years. When he returned from the war he entered the employ of the Fairbanks Scale Company, then well known and reliable manufacturers of platform scales, and now one of the great manufacturing plants of the country. During his two years employment in St. Johnsbury he met the estimable lady who became his wife March 4, 1867, Miss Helen J. Hughes.

They started on a farm near Danville where they lived for two years. However, the disadvantages and the lack of opportunity in the old home place were irksome to the ambitious young couple and in 1869, after two years of attempting to make the soil yield them a suitable return for their labors, they packed up and came to Grinnell, Iowa. Just what influence brought them to this little town on the prairie, is not known. But after only a few years of hard labor and the practice of economy, they were enabled to buy the large farm which was recognized as one of the best in the community.

After moving to Grinnell in 1882, Mr. Bray entered into partnership as a shipper of live stock with Stillman Needham, one of the best known stock buyers in this vicinity. Mr. Bray himself had an aptness for the business, although he had had but a few years opportunity to acquaint himself with the needs of the Chicago market. He at once jumped into prominence as an appraiser of the weight and value of stock and became at once one of the leading shippers of the middle west. Afterwards C. L. Roberts, well known Grinnell man, became a member of the firm and later when the others and Mr. Bray separated partnership, his son became a member of the firm and the business was conducted under the name of Bray & Son. However, the son entered other business and for years Mr. Bray was a shipper in his own name.

Mr. Bray was a man of great sagacity. He foresaw what many another man had failed to note that there was a great future for this country. Although his main business was the shipping of stock he also became the owner of many large farms and accumulated for those days what was considered much wealth.

Although the last few years he has been, on account of his age and gradually failing strength, not so active in business as in the years before, he was recognized as a man of good judgment.

(Continued on Page 5)