

12-31-1909
GEORGE RICHARD CLIFTON.

George Richard Clifton was born in New York, January 1, 1826 and died at Grinnell, Iowa, November 14, 1909, aged eighty-three years, ten months and thirteen days. In early infancy his parents moved to Baltimore, Md. He always liked the sea, and when quite young entered the merchant service. At the outbreak of the Mexican war, he was not old enough to enlist, but went with Colonel Joe. E. Johnston. He became of age while in Mexico and enlisted while there in the United States Dragoons. He was with Taylor at Palo Alto, where Major Ringgold was killed, Buena Vista, Cerro Gordo and Chapultepec. At Jalapa he was wounded in the knee by a lance in the hands of a Mexican, which troubled him little at the time, but as he became older caused his lameness. After the war was over he enlisted in the United States Navy, and was all over the world. He was with the United States ships Powhatan and Water Witch in the Paraguay expedition.

In 1855 he was married to Miss Amy LaDue of Hudson, New York. Three sons were born to them, Geo. R. Clifton, Jr., O. W. Clifton of Grinnell, Ia., Arthur B. Clifton of Seattle, Washington.

He was in the Norfolk navy yard at the outbreak of the Civil war, and after the burning of the navy yard was offered the command of a six-gun battery at Sewells Point, which he refused, and was imprisoned on ship in harbor while his family escaped north.

In 1862 he enlisted in company H, Third New Hampshire volunteers, 3rd brigade, 10th corps, General A. H. Terry, commanding, and was at Bermuda Hundred, Fort Fisher, Petersburg and in the Red River expedition with a company of scouts.

After being mustered out of the service he moved to Buffalo, New York, from which city he came west. In the fall of 1876 he came to Grinnell, and has lived in the city ever since.

His public services in the schools and the Congregational church brought him in contact with the children and citizens of this place, more than any other, and he was respected and liked by all. He entered the congregation soon after coming here and tried as near as he knew to live a Christian life, and used to say that he was ready to respond to the call at any time, in order to meet his wife again.

On November 12th he was stricken with paralysis, and on Sunday, November 14, he died, and was buried from his residence. He was English by descent, having one aunt in England.