

The Grinnell Herald
OFFICIAL PAPER OF POWESHIEK COUNTY

RAY & FRISPIE
PUBLISHERS

Printed at the Postoffice at Grinnell, Iowa, on
Sept. 24, 1914, as second-class mail matter.

Single Copies of The Herald.....5c

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1920.

GEO. W. COWDEN PASSES

Successful Business Man, Student and
Teacher John the Ma-
jority.

DEATH OCCURRED AT THREE
O'CLOCK THIS MORNING

Had Been a Resident of Grinnell Since
Entering College in
1885.

The death at his home at 2:30 o'clock this morning, February 10, of George W. Cowden, removed from Grinnell a man who earned the right to be called one of Grinnell's leading citizens. Since 1885 until his sad and growing illness had fastened itself on him he was an unusually active man, recognized as a leader, and liked for his upthrift industry, high standards of living and earnest character.

George W. Cowden was born in Illinois, Feb. 17, 1860, and so lacked but a few days of rounding out full sixty years of life. While still a young boy his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Cowden, moved to Jasper county, Iowa, near Prairie City, and later located in Grant township, Guthrie county, a few miles northeast of Adair. Here he attended the country schools and later attended the Guthrie County High School at Panora where Professor R. D. Jones was principal.

There were three boys and two girls in this family and all became students of the county high school and enthusiastic friends of Mr. Jones. The three boys were all athletes and were also students of fine standards, keen intellects and untiring devotion to their studies. All worked hard to secure an education and all made good use of it.

Cowden graduated from the high school in 1877, and on recommendation of Mr. Jones was elected to a position as teacher. He had earned a reputation as a fine scholar, a young man who devotedly loved his books and his teacher and who was in return loved and encouraged by Mr. Jones.

As a pupil he was not only a leader in sports on the playground but graduated from the high school with a record for careful and thorough scholarship which perhaps has never been excelled by any later pupil in the Guthrie County High School.

In September, 1883, he became a teacher of the boys and girls with whom he had been associated three years as a student, but so earnest and thorough was his work, and so sincere and deep was the regard they had for him that he at once leaped into front ranks as a successful teacher and always retained the respect of those who were in his classes. Tho but a high school graduate himself, he success-

fully taught Algebra, Geometry, Latin and other advanced classes, inspiring his pupils with a love for both his classes and their teacher.

After two years' successful work in Panora, during which time he was constantly looking ahead to a college course, and was studying overtime to prepare for it, he was one of a fine lot of six young men who came from the High School to Grinnell college. Here he speedily won the regard of his teachers for his high scholarship, earnest Christian character, and manly spirit. An athlete, who, in these later years when intelligent training rounds out the physical man, would have been one of the first in all the state, he still gave his real work to his books and carried off the highest honors in the class room. He was a devoted friend and lover of that manly scholar and teacher, John M. Crow, who in turn loved him with all a true teacher's devotion.

Repeatedly we have heard Professor Crow speak of him, as we had heard Mr. Jones before, as possessed of one of the finest intellects he ever met. He graduated with highest scholarship honors and was chosen by his class to deliver the "Mantle Oration" a production ripe with interesting suggestion and keen humor.

While still a student here he was elected principal of Hull Academy, a position he took more to secure the means of completing his education than from any other cause, but with unqualified success. Graduating in 1888 he was immediately elected principal of the Grinnell high school, which position he filled with success for the two following years, when in 1890 he was elected to the superintendency. This position he held until 1899, when he terminated his school experience and bought out the half interest in The Grinnell Academy.

Donald and continued an association with W. G. Ray which had begun in 1885 in Panora and which continued in various capacities until his death today.

In business he was an untiring worker as he had been as a student and a teacher, and in all he did prosperity followed his efforts. In 1908 he sold his interest in The Herald to Mr. Ray and after a few months in California he purchased The Grinnell Register which he conducted a couple of years until failing health compelled him to sell it, C. A. Miller being the buyer.

During the past few years he has lived quietly at home, gradually failing in strength, but always of keen intellect, and with an active interest in the world's affairs. During these years of his inactivity and physical weakness, he has been cared for and watched over with more than a wife's devotion by his faithful and loving wife, and by the children who spared nothing in their desire to make him comfortable and happy. And through all his weakness and discomfort he has maintained a cheerful and happy spirit, helping in every way he could those who gave so much of strength and love for him.

Mr. Cowden's death which occurred at three o'clock this morning came as the result of an attack of pneumonia which started Friday and which as-

sumed a serious aspect a day or two later. The funeral will be held at 2:00 o'clock Thursday, conducted by Rev. E. W. Cross.

Miss Mabel was called from her school work at Missouri Valley and Dudley from the bank at Lake View and both reached home last night.

In early life Mr. Cowden was a member of the United Brethren church but on coming to Grinnell he became a member of the Congregational church, there being no church here of the denomination of his boyhood membership.

December 25, 1894, G. W. Cowden was united in marriage with Miss Bertha Johnson, and last Christmas at their home they quietly enjoyed the 25th anniversary of an event which brought so much joy and loving comfort into both lives. Two children bless their marriage, and both are graduates of Grinnell College. Mabel who teaches in the high school at Missouri Valley, and Dudley who has a position in a bank at Lake View.

Mr. Cowden enjoyed more than the usual honors which friends can bestow upon a man. His high scholarship won for him the right to a Phi Beta Kappa Key which he received in token of the excellence of his work in college and afterward. He has served as president of the Grinnell Association of College Alumni and has been honored by other organizations. He early became a member of the Knights of Pythias and filled all the chairs with distinction, and always held a warm place in the hearts of the lodge and for the lodge himself.

There has been little accomplished for the good of the town, the college

or the church during the period of his activity in which he did not have a part and his advice was always recognized, as sound, clear and worthy.

In manner he was quiet, modest, unassuming, strong in everything he undertook, but apparently unconscious of it. Many friends of a lifetime mourn the death of a man of character, intellectual ability and moral worth, and join in sincere sympathy for the loving wife, children and mother whose greatest comfort will be the sweet memory of a man clean, pure and upright in all his life.