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HENRY A. DEE

Story of Life and Tragic Death of One
of Poweshiek's Pioneers and Most
Worthy Citizens.

A railroad crossing tragedy shocked the Tama community Saturday morning, July 17, at 10 o'clock when Henry A. Dee was struck by an east-bound Northwestern freight train, and was killed instantly.

Mr. Dee had been at the stock yards, watching farmers unload livestock for shipment, and was walking up town.

John Kuklik Sr., section man, and Leonard Hokel of Toledo, auto salesman, and F. W. Stice, Tama tailor, probably saw more of the accident than any one else.

John Kuklik, Sr., section man, and on the railroad right of way, said he heard the train whistle, and turned to watch for his own protection. He saw Mr. Dee, and thought the old gentleman in danger. He was about a block away, too far to be of any assistance.

He said that Mr. Dee seemed to be looking toward the train, but might not have seen it, or might have thought it on another track. Mr. Kuklik said the signal bells rang and the signals moved.

When the train was almost upon Mr. Dee and when he was almost across the tracks, he suddenly seemed to realize his danger. He made a quick move, as if trying to hurry, but the train struck him an instant later.

Mr. Hokel's description of the accident was about the same as that of the other two eye witnesses.

Mr. Dee was thrown to the north side of the tracks. The engine made many car lengths before it stopped.

Dr. Carpenter, the company's physician, was at the freight house on business when the accident occurred. He and Frank Croy saw that the train struck some one. They seized the stretcher the company keeps at the freight house, and rushed to the rail crossing.

Dr. Carpenter stated that death was instantaneous. Mr. Dee's left hip and arm were broken, but it was the shock (he was thrown 20 feet) which caused his death.

Funeral Services Monday

The last rites for Mr. Dee were solemnized on Monday afternoon, brief services being conducted by Dr. DeWitt Clinton at 2:00 o'clock at the home of the son-in-law and daughter of the deceased, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Butterfield. The funeral cortege then proceeded to the Sheridan church where formal services were held at 3:00 o'clock, also conducted by Dr. Clinton, and in the presence of a large gathering of friends and neighbors. Mr. Dee was a resident of that neighborhood for approximately half a century.

The pall bearers were veterans of the World War, all members of Enright-Schrader Post, American Legion: Howard and Jesse Kauble, Chas. A. Kupka, William Quinn, DeWitt Kern and Orion Schallar, the latter also, as bugler, sounding taps at the grave.

Music was furnished by a quartet composed of Mrs. L. E. Anthony, Mrs. Earl Soth, and Mrs. Lester Dodd, of Reinbeck, at the piano. The hymns used were "Fade, Fade, Each Earthly Joy," "Asleep in Jesus," and "God Be With You."

Members of the T. F. Bradford Woman's Relief Corps attended the services in a body and there were a few of Mr. Dee's comrades of the G. A. R. Post who were able to be in attendance. Interment was in the Sheridan cemetery.

Sketch of Mr. Dee's Life

Henry Augustus Dee was born in Franklin county, Vermont, August 14, 1865, and died Saturday, July 17, 1926, aged eighty years, eleven months and three days. His parents brought him and the other members of their family west in 1853, first settling in Ohio, and from there coming further westward in 1856, locating in Bureau county, Illinois.

When the Civil War began Mr. Dee was a mere boy but at the first opportunity, in August, 1864, he enlisted in Co. H, 146th Illinois Volunteers, his brother, James E. Dee, who died but a few months ago, having enlisted in 1862 in the 69th Illinois. The 146th served in guard duty and detached service, one of the conspicuous details it received being to be on guard duty at Springfield, Ill., at the time of the funeral of President Lincoln. Mr. Dee received his discharge from the army July 11, 1865, and returned to his home in Illinois.

He was married to Belle McElvania in 1870, his brother James having married his wife's sister, Mary McElvania, three years before. Mrs. Henry A. Dee died at Tama Feb. 28, 1923.

The two brothers, Henry and James, located in Sheridan township soon after the war and for a number of years the two families lived together and they have been associated together in a remarkably close attachment throughout the years. Another brother, Jerry M. Dee, preceded them to Sheridan township, and for a quarter of a century or more he and his family also lived in that neighborhood.

During the last seven years of Mr. Dee's life his home was in this city. He built a fine home on east Ninth street for the occupancy of himself and Mrs. Dee but she lived but a few years to enjoy the new and commodious home. Since her death Mr. Dee made his home with his son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Butterfield.

During Mr. Dee's residence in Sheridan township he filled local positions of trust and was always regarded as being a man of the highest character and of unusually good business judgment. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church in Sheridan township, worshipping first in the church of that neighborhood built in 1876 and which was rebuilt at great local sacrifice during the World War. He and his brother James were members of the board of trustees of that church and devoted much time and their ability to its welfare and to everything which promised to benefit the community. Later, following his removal to Tama, he became a member of the church of that denomination in this city.

Mr. Dee is survived by four children: Fred Dee, of Grinnell; Mrs. Charles Butterfield and Herbert H. Dee, of Tama; and Earl Dee, of Sheridan township. A daughter died in infancy. He is also survived by several grandchildren, nephews and nieces and other more distant relatives.—Tama News-Herald.