

Arrived In Covered Wagon

1-21-1927
Calvin Dickson, Postmaster at Newburg, Passed Away January 15.

**WAS IDENTIFIED WITH
UPBUILDING OF IOWA.**

**Broke the Virgin Prairie on His Farm
5½ Miles Northwest of
Grinnell.**

Calvin Dickson was born in Dart Co., Ohio, July 19, 1841.

He was married Dec. 11, 1860, at Newton, Iowa, to Mary Elizabeth Cox, daughter of Mary and Preston Cox, and a cousin of Rev. David Cox. Two children were born to this union, William Marion, born October 15, 1861, in Missouri, who lives at Anselmo, Nebraska, and Mary Etta, born April 4, 1864, at Kellogg, Iowa, who died at Knoxville, Iowa, in 1886. Mr. Dickson's wife, Mary E., died at Kellogg in 1867.

Mr. Dickson took as his second wife Sarah Ellen Carson, daughter of Levi and Susan Carson. They were married at Newton in December, 1869. Five children were born of this union, Milton Leotto, Charles Andrew, and Jessie, who died in early childhood; also Mrs. M. C. McBroom, who lives in Marshalltown, and Mrs. William Newville of Newburg. Mr. Dickson's wife, Sarah Ellen, died at Newton in 1924.

Mr. Dickson had three living children, ten living grandchildren, and nine living great-grandchildren at the time of his death. The three children and two grandchildren were at his bed at the time of his passing and had been helping during the last few days of his illness with others who did all that loving hearts could prompt to ease and comfort him.

Mr. Dickson died January 15, 1927.

Funeral services were held from the Newburg Congregational church, con-

(Continued on Page 3)

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(Continued from Page 1)

ducted by Rev. David Cox assisted by Rev. M. O. Smith. Burial was in Mt. Pleasant cemetery southwest of Newburg.

When Mr. Dickson was a young lad he came West with his parents who had caught the western fever, sold their farm, and held a sale. They bought a new farm wagon, fitted it with bows, covered them with canvas, loaded necessary equipment and family, and started West. Others were in the party and always the moving wagons kept in sight of each other for safety from the Indians. They traveled across prairie, forded creeks, laid logs across the roads where the ground was marshy, and were ferried over the larger rivers. Indiana and Illinois were very thinly settled; wild prairie grass and wild flowers were everywhere. They crossed the Mississippi River by ferry at Burlington into Iowa. Iowa was newer yet; all settlements were in a timber along a creek or river. After six weeks they located in northern Missouri.

In 1856, at the age of fifteen years, Mr. Dickson came north to Newton, Iowa, where some old Ohio friends had settled, and he got work with a farmer; later he ran a lathe in a saw mill owned by Mr. Mershon. The next summer he drove oxen hitched to a plow to break prairie.

Mr. Dickson married and moved back to Missouri in 1860, where he owned a small farm when the war broke out. Being exempt because a newly married man, he joined the Home Guards who, mounted, protected the families of fighting soldiers and the country from marauders and raided the homes of secessionists who were armed and attacked the soldiers from the rear. Mr. Dickson lived only forty miles from the Mason and Dixon line. He was twenty years old when Lincoln was elected President the first time and he voted for Lincoln's second term.

On account of local conditions

caused by the war Mr. Dickson traded forty acres for a team and wagon to bring his family back to Iowa. On moving back to Iowa in 1863 he was appointed Captain of the Home Guards of Mariposa Township, Jasper County, by Wm. M. Stone, Governor of Iowa. The same year he made trips with team and wagon from Newton to Marshalltown with grain to grind for flour, only two small houses being between Timber Creek Grove and Skunk River. Very few houses were in Marshalltown; the flour mill was where the old mill stands now. That year the Rock Island laid its tracks into Grinnell.

Mr. Dickson bought and broke prairie five and a half miles northwest of Grinnell for a farm, built a house and buildings, planted trees for protection and fruit. Being ambitious and hard working, in a few years he had one of the finest farms in the country. He was active in Grange and all that stood for improvement. In 1879 his community decided they should have a church. A committee was appointed to investigate. The night they met to report the results Mr. Dickson was late. When he came they said, "We cannot build; it can't be done." Mr. Dickson rose and said, "It can be done for I will go security for all the money we must borrow." He was made president of the building committee and the work was started August, 1879. Mr. Dickson helped as carpenter and with hauling by his men and every way he could, he himself putting in, according to memorandum, thirty six and three fourths days of time besides financial help. In November the first quarterly conference was held in the new church. The posts on the altar rails were made from walnut trees cut from his timber land near Kellogg. He was always active in the upkeep of this church which they named Mt. Pleasant, and later of other churches.

On account of failing health, in 1882, Mr. Dickson rented his farm and bought a half interest in the grain, lumber, and coal business at Newburg, and town lots of the firm of Cox and Planalp. Later this firm built a chain of elevators at Laurel, Baxter, and Ira.

In 1887 Mr. Dickson moved his family to Laurel where he took charge of the grain elevator there. Later they sold the grain business and Mr. Dickson had a general store in Newburg. Later he was postmaster at Clemons, Iowa, for eight years, where he also acted as mayor two terms. He was appointed postmaster in Newburg in 1917, holding that as long as he lived and being active up to a week before his death. Mr. Dickson's health had not been of the best but being ambitious and courageous he never gave up until compelled to sit or a week before his death.

DICKSON, Calvin b. Darke Co.,
O. July 19, 1841, m. at Newton,
Mary E. Cox dau. of Mary and
Preston Cox and cousin of Rev.
David Cox. 2 chil. Wm. Marion and
Mary Ella. His wife d. in 1867 and
he m. 2nd. Sarah Ellen Carson,
dau. of Levi and Susan Carson in
1869 at Newton. There were 5 chil.
by this marriage: Milton L., Chas.
A., Jessie, Mrs. M. C. McBroom
and Mrs. Wm. Newville. His 2nd
wife d. at Newton 1924 and he d.
Jan. 15, 1927. Ob