

# Former Mayor Tom Godfrey Dies Early Wednesday; Rites Saturday

4-16-1964

Former Mayor Thomas Godfrey, 80, of 508 Spring Street, passed away suddenly at his home early Wednesday morning, April 15. His health had been failing throughout the last year.

He was born Dec. 29, 1883, at Salford, near Manchester, England, the son of Thomas and Agnes Christie Godfrey.

Following his education at Salford, he was united in marriage with Mary Emily Eaton in the Wesleyan Methodist church on Nov. 13, 1906. To this union were born nine children, seven of whom survive: William Godfrey of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Mrs. F. D. (Jessie) Robertson of Commerce City, Colorado; Ralph Godfrey of El Reno, Okla.; Mrs. Glen A. (Hilda) Wilson of Ottumwa, Iowa; Mrs. S. H. (Alma May) Haunsperger of Kellogg, Iowa; John Thomas Godfrey of Fort Worth, Texas; and Mrs. Royce R. (Betty Ann) Renaud of Denver, Colo.

In addition to his seven children he is survived by his wife Mary, seven grandchildren and eight great grandchildren; as well as four sisters and one brother: Mrs. Jessie Williams of Oskaloosa, Mrs. Florence Marsden of Grinnell, Mrs. John (Nellie) Kinnaird of Marshalltown, Fred Godfrey of Newmarket, Ontario, Canada; and Mrs. Alice Heacock of Oskaloosa, and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, two infant children (Arnold and Roy), one granddaughter, Joyce Renaud, two brothers and two sisters.

Mr. and Mrs. Godfrey came to the United States in 1910 and made their home in Grinnell, where he worked for a time with the Spaulding Manufacturing Co. and for the Deep Rock Oil Co. Later he owned and operated the Godfrey Oil Co.

He had served as a member of the Grinnell City Council for eight years and was mayor of the City of Grinnell from 1951 through 1955. He was prominent

in his affiliation with the Democratic party, and was a member of the Grinnell Kiwanis Club.

He was a member of the board of deacons of the First Baptist church and was active in the Odd Fellows Lodge. He had been Past Noble Grand and secretary for a number of years in the Grinnell Lodge #358 I.O.O.F. He was Past Grand Patriarch and was Grand Treasurer of Fidelity Encampment #118 I.O.O.F. and Auxiliary.

He was Brigadier General (retired) in Canton John R. Lewis #59 of the Patriarch Militant, I.O.O.F., and the Auxiliary; and was a member of the Grinnell Rebekah Lodge #119. In 1952 he was awarded the highest degree given in the Odd Fellows Lodge—"The Grand Decoration of Chivalry"—at Colorado Springs, Colo., by the Sovereign Grand Lodge. He had been a trustee for the Odd Fellows Home in Mason City and the P. M. Park at Clear Lake. He also held honorary membership in the Iowa Fireman's Association.

Mr. and Mrs. Godfrey had celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary together on November 13, 1956.

Funeral services for Thomas Godfrey will be held at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, April 18, at the First Baptist church, with the Rev. Wayne Shireman, pastor of the church, officiating.

Organ music will be provided by E. H. Bohstedt. Flower bearers will be Mrs. William French and Mrs. Howard Kydd. Serving as pallbearers will be Walto McGriff, Guy Slaven, Fred Taylor, Perry Bailey, Myles Olson, and Robert McMeekin.

Burial will be made in Hazelwood cemetery with Odd Fellows graveside rites conducted by members of Lodge #358 I.O.O.F. as well as members of other Orders within the Odd Fellow Lodge. Friends may call at the Smith Funeral Home.