

J. C. GOODRICH.

Oct. 11, 1929.

11-22-29 San Diego, California
3752 Goldfich.

Grinnell Herald:

I note in recent issues of the Herald that you are asking for the names of non-resident early settlers of Grinnell and vicinity.

Think my name belongs on that list as I came with my parents in the spring of 1865 and settled on a farm about two miles east and one half mile south of Grinnell.

The land was mostly prairie at that time. The first house out in that direction is now owned by Miss Sanders, the next one was owned by Mr. Gould and is now occupied by Dave McBlain; the third house on the road which ran diagonally S.E. was the home of Harvey Bliss, the fourth was one half mile off the prairie road and was our home, and the next one was L. G. C. Pierce's.

The prairies were changed into farms on which small improvements were made, but there was some prairie still used for grazing as late as 1875.

We were located about one fourth mile south of the C.R.I. & P. railroad and were troubled somewhat by prairie fires in the fall of the year until adjacent land was taken up and farmed. The R.R. engines in the early days had the balloon shaped smoke stacks which were supposed to be covered with a screen, but occasional sparks got through, and if they set fire to the dry grass with the wind N. W. the result was thrilling if not dangerous, especially at night.

I would like to be there at the homecoming, and the opening of the airport, as it is located on the old home farm where I was raised.

Yours respectfully,

J. C. Goodrich.

Goodrich, J. Cass. b. Williams-
town, Vt., 1863, son of Abram and
Harriet (Cass) Goodrich. m. Har-
riet L. Kingdon and they had one
daughter. POP 2 p 289
Daughter b.

J. C. GOODRICH.

J. C. Goodrich, of the Grinnell Manufacturing Company, is a leading resident of Grinnell and is associated with H. W. Spaulding in the conduct of a retail buggy business. His birth occurred in Williamstown, Vermont, on the 7th of April, 1863, his parents being Abram and Harriet (Cass) Goodrich, who were natives of Vermont and New Hampshire respectively. Following their marriage they located on a farm near Williamstown, Vermont, the father being

actively engaged in its operation until 1865. In that year they came west to Iowa, locating on a farm a mile and a half east of Grinnell, where Abram Goodrich made his home until called to his final rest in 1881. His widow then took up her abode in Grinnell, where her demise occurred the following year. Both were Universalists in religious faith.

J. C. Goodrich was reared at home and supplemented his preliminary education, obtained in the common schools, by a course of study at Grinnell Academy. After his mother's death he returned to the home farm and was engaged in its operation until 1891 or 1892, when he came to Grinnell and embarked in the agricultural implement business as a member of the Foster, Bailey, Goodrich Company. In 1900 Mr. Goodrich and Mr. Bailey sold their interests to Mr. Foster and engaged in the hardware business under the firm style of Bailey & Goodrich, the partnership being maintained for one year. Mr. Goodrich then withdrew from the concern and took charge of the city water works, managing them for four years. On the expiration of that period he became one of the organizers of the Grinnell Manufacturing Company, manufacturers of power hammers and blacksmith tools, being made manager of the new concern. In the spring of 1908 the Grinnell Manufacturing Company discontinued its former line of work and engaged in the retail buggy business under the old firm name, the proprietors of the establishment being H. W. Spaulding and J. C. Goodrich. The business of the company covers the southwestern states and is conducted on what is known as the trailing system. Mr. Goodrich is a stockholder and a member of the board of directors of the Merchants National Bank of Grinnell and is also a stockholder and director in the Grinnell Washing Machine Company. He has earned for himself an enviable reputation as a careful man of business and in his dealings is known for his prompt and honorable methods, which have won him the deserved and unbounded confidence of his fellowmen.

In 1885 Mr. Goodrich was united in marriage to Miss Harriet L. Kingdon, of Grinnell, Iowa, by whom he has one child, Mae J., who is now in her senior year at Grinnell College. He gives his political allegiance to the republican party. Fraternally he is identified with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, belonging to Grinnell Lodge, No. 358. Mrs. Goodrich is a member of the Episcopal church and also belongs to the Priscillas, a ladies' social club of Grinnell. Mr. Goodrich has spent practically his entire life in Poweshiek county and enjoys a wide and favorable acquaintance within its borders.