

OBITUARY,
June 9, 1916

John A. Griffith.

John A. Griffith died last week Thursday at his home near Worden, Mont., after a long and painful illness. The remains were brought to Montezuma Sunday evening, accompanied by the bereaved widow and son, George C. Griffith, of Aberdeen, Wash.

The funeral services were held in the Presbyterian church Monday afternoon in charge of Rev. Mr. Mahaffy, assisted by Rev. George Blagg of the M. E. church, and were attended by a large number of relatives and friends, many of whom were his boyhood acquaintances. The body was conveyed to the beautiful Montezuma cemetery and the last sad rites were performed by Wisner Post, G. A. R. The family of the deceased all reside in the west, but it was the expressed wish that he be buried in Montezuma amid the scenes of the happy young manhood.

John Archibald Griffith, youngest son of John and Emily Griffith, was born near Xenia, Greene county, Ohio, March 2, 1847, and died May 25, 1916, at his home near Worden, Mont., of chronic nephritis, aged 69 years, 2 months, and 23 days. When he was eight years of age his parents located in Poweshiek county.

Mr. Griffith grew to young manhood in Montezuma. When the war clouds came and the call for troops was made, the three sons of Mrs. Emily Griffith responded with patriotic fervor and enlisted under the stars and stripes in defense of the government. The second son, Benjamin T. Griffith, enlisted at Grinnell in Company E, Fourth Iowa cavalry, and after two and a half years of service for his country fell into the enemy's hands and was made a prisoner of war at Andersonville and later at Florence, S. C., where he died after one year of terrible hardships just at the close of the war. Thus did the widowed mother lay a costly sacrifice upon the altar of her country's liberty.

John Griffith enlisted as a recruit when but sixteen years of age in Company E, Fourth Iowa cavalry, in February, 1864, and was in active service till the close of the war, and received honorable discharge.

He returned to his home in Montezuma and entered high school. Later

he went to Iowa college at Grinnell. After teaching for some time alternately with his school work in Grinnell, he entered the law office of A. W. Ballard and Judge L. C. Blanchard, where he studied law. In 1871 he was elected surveyor of Poweshiek county, and held the office for four successive terms until he resigned to enter the drug business. In 1880 he moved with his family to What Cheer, where he continued to reside until 1909 when failing health compelled him to seek outdoor life, and he moved to his late home in Montana, where he died.

On April 4, 1874, deceased was united in marriage with Miss Mary Esther Terrell of Forest Home. To this union three children were born, all of whom were with him at times during his last sickness. They are Mrs. A. E. Alcom of Ballantyne, Mont.; Leonard E. Griffith of Hagerman, Ida.; and George C. Griffith of Aberdeen, Wash. Two sisters survive him, Mrs. H. M. Rugg of Thornburg, and Mrs. James K. Little of Grinnell. These and the bereaved wife have the sympathy of all in their sorrow.

Mr. Griffith united with the Presbyterian church in 1888 and remained a member until his death. He always took an active part in the upbuilding of the community in which he lived, was prominent in business and social affairs, and held many offices and positions of honor and trust. He was active in Grand Army circles, was a member of Haines Post, No. 144, G. A. R., at What Cheer, and later a member of McKinley Post, No. 28, Billings, Mont.

Those from out of town who attended the funeral in Montezuma besides the wife of the deceased, Mrs. J. A. Griffith, of Worden, Mont., and his son, George C. Griffith and wife of Aberdeen, Wash., were: Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Terrell and daughter of Des Moines, Mr. and Mrs. I. H. Sanders of Forest Home, Mrs. Neola Miller of New Sharon, Mrs. H. M. Rugg and son F. G. Rugg of Thornburg, Mrs. James K. Little of Grinnell, Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Little and daughter and Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Little of Brooklyn, Mrs. R. W. Baylor and sons and Dr. Seeley and mother of What Cheer, Frank Terrell and family of Forest Home, and Mr. and Mrs. John Gilmore of Brooklyn.