

3-16 OBITUARY. 1906

George Douglass Johnson was born on the thirteenth day of August 1837 in Poughkeepsie, N. Y., and lived there until he was twelve years of age when he moved with his parents to Mt. Vernon, Ohio. There he grew to manhood and when the war broke out in 1861 enlisted in Company F, 65th Ohio Infantry and served his country three years, two months and two days without receiving a wound or being off duty a single day, though participating in seventeen of the hardest battles of the war.

In 1864 he came to Iowa and two years later was united in marriage to Miss Emeline C. Biddleman in Iowa county. To this union one daughter was born who is now the wife of G. W. Cowden of this city.

Twenty-eight years ago he moved with his family to a farm three miles north of the city where he lived until five years ago when he moved to north Main street that he might live nearer his daughter and grand-children.

He was a prosperous and successful farmer, a good citizen and neighbor. He was a strong man both physically and intellectually and in force of character and was held in high esteem for his industry, honesty and sturdy manhood. He was a man of high ideals and made his life conform to those ideals. Though he had never been permitted to continue his studies beyond a high school course he was greatly interested in the public schools and institutions of higher education. He took a keen interest in all the activities of the community and was a close student of state and national legislation.

He was a man of strong convictions and though he did not force his opinions on others he did not hesitate to uphold them by word and deed when the occasion required. He believed in giving every man a square deal and countenanced nothing less from others.

Being of an unusually genial and social nature he readily made friends of all. He always had a kind and cheerful word for every one. He had a large circle of acquaintances both in town and in the country and was respected and loved by all with whom he associated. He was at home in all classes of society and never lacked for the right word at the right time.

Mr. Johnson was a member of the Masonic fraternity of this city and also of the G. A. R.

Until late Saturday evening a physician had never been called to his bedside. His illness which proved fatal began to take his strength Saturday evening. About nine o'clock his condition became suddenly alarming and he grew rapidly worse until he passed away a little after four o'clock Monday morning.

Services were conducted at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Cowden, at half past two o'clock Wednesday afternoon by the Rev. J. M. McClelland of the M. E. church of which he was a regular attendant and to which his wife belonged, assisted by Rev. E. M. Vittum of the Congregational church.

At the cemetery the Masons had charge of the ceremonies, the G. A. R. taking an appropriate part in honoring the memory of a comrade thus mustered out of the service.

He leaves his wife, his daughter and family, five sisters and two brothers to mourn the loss of a kind and loving husband, father and brother.

Those present at the services from out of town were his brother J. D. Johnson of Council Bluffs, and sisters Miss Sue Johnson and Mrs. J. D. Brunner and husband of Newton and Mrs. Johnson's brother V. F. Biddleman of Thornburg.