

4-13-1926

OBITUARY

Another of Searsboro's long time and highly respected citizens has been called to his reward.

Melville Amos Latham was born in Hartford county, Connecticut, Dec. 27, 1846 and died at his home in Searsboro, April 10, 1926, aged 79 years, 3 months and 13 days. He was the son of Amos B. and Caroline Loomis Latham.

There were seven other children in the family: Jennie Wadsworth of East Hartford, Conn.; William E. of New Briton, Conn.; Joel E. of Rogers, Arkansas; Charles and Ernest B., both of New York City, and Bessie M. Burland and Imogene C. Skinner who preceded him in death.

After obtaining a common school education he served a three years apprenticeship at Coleschester, Conn., learning the blacksmith's trade, after which he located at Marshall, Mich where he followed his trade for five years. He then came to Poweshiek Co., Iowa, locating at Searsboro, Ia. 1871.

Here he engaged in the mercantile business with his brother Joel E. for three years, and then disposing of his interest, he again became identified with the blacksmith's trade, which he followed for sixteen years. Since that time he has been continuously engaged in farming.

Mr. Latham was one of the charter members of the Searsboro I. O. O. F. Lodge 335, and continued an active member until his death.

Mr. Latham was united in marriage on the 26th day of October, 1873, to Miss Margaret E. Williams, a daughter of John W. and Elizabeth Dunsbille Williams of Grinnell, Iowa. To this union were born five children, Arno B. and Hawley R., both of Searsboro, Iowa. Maud Adel and two sons died in infancy.

Mr. Latham had lived continuously in this community for more than 55 years, and the large concourse of friends and neighbors that gathered to pay their last tribute of respect and gratitude for the many acts of kindness for which he is remembered, showed the appreciation felt for him in this community. He was ever ready to help when help was needed and to sympathise with those in sorrow.

The funeral services were conducted by Rev. William Robertson, a long time friend of Mr. Latham, at the M. E. church at two p. m. Sunday afternoon. "The Golden City," "Jesus Lover of my Soul," and "In the Garden" were rendered by the choir. Burial was in the I. O. O. F. cemetery. The I. O. O. F. Lodge attended in a body and had charge at the cemetery.