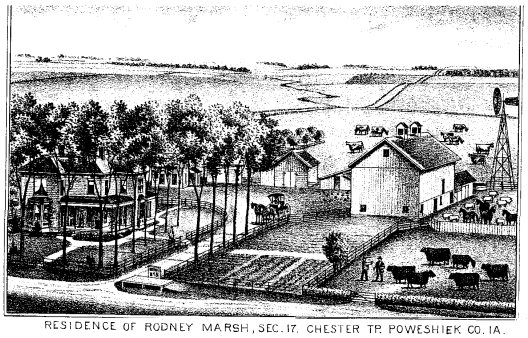
RODNEY MARSH, a representative general farmer and successful stock-raiser of Chester Township, is widely known in Poweshiek County as a man of business ability and enterprise, and was one of the chief promoters of the Farmers' Exchange Store at Grinnell, organized in 1875, and, always a stockholder, has since the first year been one of the Executive Board of Directors. Although for nearly a quarter of a century a prominent citizen of Iowa, the early days of Mr. Marsh were passed in Cayuga County, N. Y., in which part of the Empire State he was born November 19, 1837, being the only son of Thomas and Paulina (Brown) Marsh. By a former marriage the father of our subject had eight children, all of whom lived to years of maturity. The paternal grandfather was a native of Vermont, but was of English descent, and passed the most of his life amid the Green Mountains of his birthplace. Rodney Marsh was reared in his native State, and there enjoyed the benefit of the excellent public schools of New York. A self-reliant and manly youth, he attained his majority well fitted by nature and training to make his upward way in life.

January 9, 1862, our subject was united in marriage with Miss Mary J., daughter of Joseph Carver, of Cayuga County, N. Y., and a member of a family well and favorably known in the community among whom they resided for many years. In 1864 Mr. Marsh enlisted in Company K, Third New York Light Artillery, and was engaged in the Army of the James, actively participating in the battles of that campaign. He was also present at the surrender of Richmond and Fredericksburgh, and after more than a year of faithful and courageous service was mustered out at Richmond, in 1865, and afterward received his honorable discharge at Syracuse, N. Y. Following the close of the war Mr. Marsh for some time devoted himself to the business of milling, but in 1869 came with his family to the West and located in Poweshiek County, Iowa, where he at first purchased a small farm near Chester Center, but later sold there and moved to his present homestead, consisting of two hundred and forty finely cultivated acres, pleasantly located upon section 17, and well improved with substantial and commodious buildings, the entire farm presenting an appearance of general thrift and prosperity.

The family of our subject and his estimable wife comprises five sons and daughters. Harlan J., the eldest-born, is now located at Salt Lake City, Utah. Della, an accomplished young lady, is a teacher in the schools of Lamar, Colo., and is a graduate of the Grinnell High School. Delia, the second daughter, is also a graduate of the High School of Grinnell, and also completed a course of instruction in the Highland Park School of Des Moines. Lulu is a successful teacher of Poweshiek County and an attendant at the State Normal School at Cedar Falls, where she will finish her various studies, graduating in one year from the present writing, in the Class of '94. Leo, yet a young lad, is still at home.

Mr. Marsh has until recently affiliated at all times with the Republican party, but of late has been more of an independent, giving his vote to the best man for the place. He is a highly esteemed member of Gordon Post No. 64, G. A. R., at Grinnell, and, a liberal spirited man, is ever ready to contribute to worthy social and benevolent enterprise, and not only among his friends and neighbors of the past twenty-three years but throughout Poweshiek County is regarded with the respect and confidence due his sterling integrity of character and high attributes as a man and citizen.



RESIDENCE OF RODNEY MARSH, SEC. 17. CHESTER TP. POWESHIEK CO. IA.

2-21 *Rodney Marsh, 1911*

The funeral of Rodney Marsh occurred Sunday at 1:30 o'clock p. m. at the congregational church in this city, conducted by Rev. T. A. Duncan. The Grand Army post attended as a body. Burial was in the Chester cemetery beside the body of his wife.

Mr. Marsh was born in 1837 in Cayuga county, N. Y. In 1862 he was united in marriage to Mary J. Carver, of the same county. He enlisted in a New York regiment and served to the close of the rebellion, being present at the fall of Richmond.

In 1869 he removed to Poweshiek county, locating on the farm now occupied by S. D. Ward. In 1871 he purchased a farm one and one-half mile west and here he and his wife built up one of the best and happiest homes in Chester township.

In 1903 he moved to Grinnell, but owing to the death of his wife he went very soon after to Fort Collins, Colo., to live with his daughter Mrs. S. C. Dickinson. Here he died last Thursday at the age of 73 years.

There were five children born to Mr. and Mrs. Marsh, all of whom are still living. As one of the earlier settlers of Chester Mr. Marsh was well known and was universally respected, a man of upright character and sterling worth. It is true to say that of all the many cultured and cheerful homes in Chester township none was nearer to the American ideal than that of Mr. and Mrs. Marsh.

The body was accompanied to Grinnell by his daughter, Mrs. S. C. Dickinson. Harlan Marsh of Breckenridge, Minn., his older son, was also present at the funeral. Both were guests at the W. M. McCoy home.