

OBITUARY 10/18/07

LOUIS FRANKLIN MASON

The earthly life of Louis Franklin Mason began at Unionville in central Pennsylvania, March 8th, 1841. His early years revealed the coming man morally and industrially. At the age of twenty he heard the call to arms in defense of the Union. At an hour in 1861 when England and France were almost ready to throw their influence in favor of the confederacy and when the prospect for the ultimate success of the Union arms was not encouraging he enlisted. He was made First Lieutenant and rose to the captaincy. He served through the war, and was made a prisoner a few days during the battle of Gettysburg. Just before that battle when the confederates were attacking the corps of Gen. Reynolds he was shot and Capt. Mason was captured while attempting to obtain water for the dying officer. He was not able to escape until after his company had nearly all fallen near Cemetery Ridge and on Little Round Top.

At the close of the war he married Miss Jennie Rhone, a former schoolmate of Penns Valley, Pa. He made his home in different places until he settled near Grinnell some twenty-five years ago. He resided in this vicinity until the time of his death. He was a genial man of integrity and activity, and successful in business especially in the later years. It was hard for him to refuse a friend a favor, and when he was security on a note he paid it as promptly if called on as when he was principal. His business called him from home frequently. He had planned to revisit the home of their childhood and the scenes of his military

service at the close of his last tour. His wife was then in Pennsylvania. He was somewhat unwell. He feared an unfavorable result. Aided by his grandson he hastened to a railroad station 75 miles away reaching it in a little more than a single night. He could go no further, but assured his wife that he would join her soon. Typhoid pneumonia closed his life at Livingston, Montana, on the 3rd inst. Two sons were at his bedside.

He leaves a wife, two sons, three daughters, five grandchildren, a brother in Colorado and a sister in Topeka, Kansas.

It was eminently appropriate that the flag should lie on his breast. It was always near his heart.

A large number gathered at the funeral here on the 6th inst which was conducted by Prof. Parker and in which Gordon Granger Post and the Knights of Pythias took part. His favorite hymn, "Lead Kindly Light," was sung by a quartette and his silent form was laid to rest with kindest expressions and manifestations of honor and affection. His early church membership was with the the Methodists; his later with the Lutherans.

The Herald feels that it has lost a personal friend, whose friendship it prized; that Grinnell has lost a good and successful citizen, whose loyalty was unswerving; that his neighbors have lost a generous friend, whose heart was always kindly and manner genial and that his family have lost one whose memory will always be cherished reverently for the years of love and kindness which it represents.

CARD OF THANKS.

To each of the Fraternal Orders and the loving friends who so kindly assisted us in our great bereavement, our heartfelt thanks are tendered.

MRS. JENNIE R. MASON
AND FAMILY.