

From family history records being compiled by  
Stephen Morris, September, 1970

#### A SUDDEN SUMMONS.

##### Another Montezuma Citizen Answers The Call of Death.

1913

W. M. Messick, well known citizen of Montezuma, died very suddenly at his home early Friday morning. He had been a faithful and trusted employe of the King-Read Lumber Co. for some time and quit his work Thursday afternoon in apparent good health. He had asked for and received permission to take a vacation on the following day, that he and his wife might attend the 25th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. G. G. Wilson, nephew and niece of deceased.

He was feeling well at night and about 2 o'clock got out of bed and attended to the fire in the heater. An hour later he was up again thinking it was time to arise and prepare for the trip to Grinnell. When he found it was a little past three he retired. Shortly, the wife noticed something wrong and arising found him close to death's door. A physician was hurriedly summoned but before he arrived the dark curtain was drawn.

The deceased was a good citizen, a kind husband and a considerate father. A hard worker he found pleasure in accepting the most difficult task and was content to carry the burden without complaint. He had a sympathetic heart and was ever ready to respond to the extent of his ability in time of need or distress and he always desired to be on the right side.

W. M. Messick was born in Jonesville, Yadkin county, North Carolina, April 27, 1850, and died at his home in Montezuma, December 19, 1913, aged 63 years, 7 months and 22 days. He was a former resident of Lynnvillle and Searsboro moving to Montezuma in 1884 where he has since resided. In 1879 he was married to Mary E. Adkins. Five children were born to this union, four sons, Chas. A., of Galt, Iowa, Elmer C., George Leroy, William Clifford, of Montezuma. One daughter, Nellie May, passed away in 1897. Mr. Messick was converted and united with the M. P. church in 1889 and remained a faithful member until the class was disbanded and the church sold. Of recent years he has attended the services of the Methodist church and was a member of the Men's Bible class. He is the first one to pass away since its present organization and as a mark of esteem the class attended the funeral services in a body.

In addition to the wife and children he is survived by two sisters, Mrs. Henry Wilson, of Newton, and Mrs. William Good, of Colfax, and many other relatives and friends. In his death the family has lost a loving husband and a kind father.

A very large company of people attended the funeral services which were held in the Methodist church on Sunday afternoon in charge of Rev. George Blagg assisted by Rev. G. E. Ferguson, who had charge of the service at the grave, thus attesting the esteem in which he was held by neighbors and friends.

The community extends its sympathy to Mrs. Messick and family in the sudden bereavement that has come upon them.

Those who attended the funeral from a distance were Charles Messick of Galt, Iowa; Mr. and Mrs. Henry Wilson, of Newton; Mary Good and son, Leon, of Colfax; Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Good, of Iowa Falls; Mr. and Mrs. Eliza Norris, of Brooklyn; Mr. and Mrs. Grant Wilson, of Grinnell; Tom Wilson, of Albion; Charles Good, of Marshalltown; Hilary Good of Iowa Falls; Edna Adkins and son, Harold, of Grinnell; Will Kissick, of Grinnell.

The bereaved mother and children extend their heartfelt thanks to the many friends who so kindly endeavored to assuage their sorrow, and to the Men's Bible Class for their testimonials of respect and esteem for a departed member.