

LIGHTNING KILLS

ROBERT MADILL

6-25-1910

Prominent Poweshiek County Farmer Meets Death While Plowing in Field.

SATURDAY MORNING

SHOWER CLAIMS LIFE

Funeral Was Held Yesterday Morning—Leaves Wife and Eight Children.

While plowing in his field during a heavy shower which occurred north of Grinnell on Saturday morning, Robert Madill, an old and highly respected resident, was struck by lightning and instantly killed. Mr. Madill's home is two miles northwest of Newburg. He was at work in his corn field when the storm approached, and was mounted on the seat of a steel riding plow. Evidently he thought that the shower would be of short duration and did not want to stop, for he continued plowing during the rainfall. Evidently the blow attracted the lightning for suddenly there was a blinding flash and when it had passed, Robert Madill was dead, still sitting upright on the seat of the plow. The bolt had struck him on the right temple, passed behind the ear and down the back. Death was instantaneous. The two horses were knocked down by the blow but not killed.

The catastrophe was discovered at once and help was soon at hand, but mortal aid was of no avail.

The funeral was held yesterday morning at 11 o'clock from the United Brethren church three miles west of Newburg. The services were conducted by Rev. R. F. Lavender, of Wittenburg, and by the Reverends McCurdy, from north of Marshalltown and Roberts, of Newburg.

Scores of neighbors signified their sympathy and their sorrow by their presence.

Robert Madill was one of the substantial men of his community. He was well to do, a fine farmer, a good business man, a man of high personal character and perfect integrity. He was aged 65 years and 24 days and seemed to have many years of vigorous, helpful manhood ahead of him.

He is survived by a widow and eight children: Peter, of Grinnell; John, William, Mrs. Charles Green and James, of Newburg, Mrs. Frank Sage, of Laurel and Robert and Anna at home.