

Dave Manatt Was Old Timer

(From The Brooklyn Chronicle)

Dave Manatt, was the earliest settler in Brooklyn. J. M. Snyder, who came to Brooklyn in 1856, says he was here then. A search into a History of Poweshiek county states that Robert Manatt came to Brooklyn in 1847. Robert Manatt was the father of Dave Manatt, he (Robert) having been born in Ireland, near Belfast.

The first Mrs. Robert Manatt died in 1837 in Ohio where they were then living. For his second wife Mr. Manatt chose Margaret Mitchell, a resident of Holmes county, Ohio. Mrs. Manatt was a native of Ireland and her death occurred in Brooklyn, Iowa, many years after the family moved here.

There were four children by the second marriage who were: George, a former resident of Grinnell; Margaret McBroom; David, the one who died last week, and Alex, who met his death while serving in the Civil War.

Dave Manatt was 89 years old at the time of his death, the last of his line. He had lived nearly all his life in Brooklyn. His wife died a good while ago. They had one daughter, who is now dead and no grandchildren survive.

When he came to Brooklyn with his parents he must have been about six years old, as they came here in 1847. There were three other families in Bear Creek township then. One was a Talbott. Manatt entered land from the government on the present site of Brooklyn and engaged in agricultural pursuits. In 1851 he brought the first threshing machine to Poweshiek county, and two years later the first harvester, a McCormick.

Robert Manatt soon became the owner of 1,000 acres of land in this vicinity. He also operated one of the early hotels. He died aged 72 in 1864, but practically all his children by both wives grew up in Brooklyn, and have been well known around here.

David is the last to die, so a real link is broken with early history of Brooklyn.

Funeral services were conducted by the Rev. Russell G. Nye in the M. E. Church Thursday afternoon, and he was laid to rest in the cemetery where a number of his relatives have been placed before him.