A Life Full Of Good Deeds

1929
1-25

Milo Morgan, Grinnell's Oldest Resident, Dies At Age of 98 Years.

LIVED IN THIS COUNTY ALL HIS ACTIVE LIFE.

Was One of Grinnell's Few Remaining Civil War Veterans—Lived An Active Life.

Funeral services for Milo Morgan, Grinnell's oldest resident who passed away Sunday afternoon at 3:45 o'clock were conducted from the home of his daughter, Mrs. E. H. Reavis at 309 Broad Street, Tuesday afternoon at three o'clock by Rev. Mrs. Norton. Mrs. Norton's daughters sang "What a Friend We Have in Jesus," "Happy Day" and "In the Sweet Bye and Bye." Bearers were: Will Alley, J. J. Corrough, George Sampson, George Hayes, Ben Foster, and George Murray. He was laid to rest beside his deceased wife in Hazelwood.

Milo Morgan, son of John and Nellie Willcockson Morgan, was born Jan. 1st, 1831 near Springfield, Ill., where he spent his childhood and early manhood.

When he was about 21 years of age he moved from Illinois to the eastern part of Poweshiek Co., Iowa, and his home has been in this county the rest of his long, useful life.

He knew the griefs and enjoyments of the pioneer, and many very interesting stories of the early days always remained in his memory. His home was always open to strangers, whoever they might be.

He lived his religion; he did not preach it. He welcomed the widows and orphans to his home when they were left fatherless.

When a young man, though not a church member, he with the help of another young man called the young people together and organized the first Sunday School in Deep River. At the end of the quarter he told them he thought they had better turn the Sunday School over to Christian people, which they did and elected Christians for the next officers.

In December, 1850, he located 160 acres of land, part in Iowa County and part in Poweshiek Co. He went back to Iowa City, entered it and broke some prairie on it then went back to Illinois. In 1852 he came back with his brother-in-law, John Hillman, and built a small cabin. They left the cabin and their posessions and went east during the summer returning in November, Mr. Hillman bringing his family. Mr. Morgan lived with them.

Late in the fall of 1852 he entered 80 acres in section 36 in Poweshiek Co. Part of the land was timber. At that time he was young and strong. In the winters of 1852 and '53 he split rails east of Brooklyn for Thomas Given and for his pay took corn to feed his oxen.

July 31st, 1856, he was married to Susannah G. Robertson. Their little new house of two rooms was not completed but the carpenters were working on it. When they arrived there were no floors laid, but they soon laid enough to set up the stove so they could get dinner. By night they had the floor finished so they could move the rest of their furniture in.

This was the beginning of the happy, carefree life they spent, and where the four oldest children were born. Then came the call for volunteers and he with so many brave boys left his happy home, all that was near and dear to him and joined the 28th Iowa Volunteers. He was not in the war long before he was taken sick. For a long time he was in the hospital.

They then sent him home, not the strong, hearty man he was when he went away but so frail and weak that he fell before he could reach his door. For many years he was in poor health little dreaming he would ever reach his 98th birthday.

He was not in the army long but long enough to make life-long friends of many of his comrades who presented him with a goldheaded cane at his golden wedding anniversary.

About the year 1860 he sold his home in Lincoln Twp. and bought a farm north of what is now Jacob in Washington Twp., where Ross Ester now lives, and moved with his family there.

There was a small house on the farm with only one room. It takes a pioneer to plan how to arrange 4 beds for a family of 10 in that one room. There was left for table, stove, cupboard and chairs, but it was very easily arranged when they put one bedstead on top of the other, one against the wall, and the other under it, a bed in the other corner, leaving the other end of the room for stove, cupboard and table and chairs.

This is a fair picture of their home until they built a new part of 5 rooms making a very comfortable home. At this time there were many children in the neighborhood who had outgrown the school house and found a long way to go to school. Seeing the great need of education of the little ones, and always interested in their welfare, he gave a lot to build a school house and gave the timber to build it.

The neighbors helped in putting it up. This served as a school house until the County furnished another one near it. He also gave the land for the first school house in the district.

There were 24 girls in the first

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Milo Morgan

school house which was known as the Morgan School.

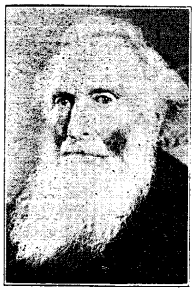
In the year 1873 he traded for the farm or part of it where Reuel Tish now lives, where he resided until the fall of 1893 when he sold the farm to the late S. A. Tish and moved to Grinnell, Iowa, where he spent the remainder of his long life. In 1906 they celebrated their Golden Wedding which was one of the happy events of his life. His sister, Mrs. Malvira Hillman and her sister, Mrs. Horace Robertson were present at this anniversary. They were also present at the wedding fifty years before.

Feb. 20th, 1911, his faithful, loving wife departed this life. For several years after he lived in his old home with his son John, but it was a sad, lonely life for both, so in 1917 they moved to 324 East street with his daughter, Mrs. S. A. Tish, and lived there until Dec., 1927, when he moved back to his old home with his daughter, Mrs. E. H. Reavis at 309 Broad St. His last sickness of about 10 days resulted in his death, Jan. 20th, 1929.

There remain to mourn his loss his seven children: Mrs. Eleanor Champlin, Oskaloosa, Iowa; Mr. Horace Morgan, Nevada, Iowa; Mrs. Mary Buskirk, Greenwood, Neb.; Mrs. Belle Buskirk, Louisville, Neb.; Mr. Charles H. Morgan, Swan, Iowa; Mrs. Minnie Reavis and Mrs. Margaret Tish, Grinnell, Iowa. Twenty-seven grandchildren, seventy-three great grandchildren, three great great grandchildren, two sisters, Mrs. Margaret Atherton, Deep River, Iowa; Mrs. Angeline Forney, Lyons, Kansas; one brother-in-law, Mr. Ham Atherton, Weatherford, Texas, and many other relatives besides a host of friends.

Great-Grand-Father Of Seventy-Three

1-29-1953



Milo Morgan.
Venerable Grinnell resident who died last week at age of 98 years.