

4-18-1924

IN MEMORY OF JAMES EARL NEELY

Respected and Beloved Citizen of
Grinnell was Buried Thursday
Morning.

IMPRESSIVE SERVICES
AT METHODIST CHURCH.

Mr. Neely spent Many Useful and Happy
Years as Resident of This
Community.

Looking back over a period of more than a half a century there have been few Grinnell men who have had a wider acquaintance than James Earl Neely and few men have enjoyed the confidence of others to a greater extent. Mr. Neely was born at Fairfield, Herkimer County, New York June 10, 1843. His death occurred at the home of his son Earl M. in Long Beach, Calif. April 17, 1924 after an illness of two weeks.

Mr. Neely was of good old Revolutionary stock and was born to the business of cheese making. This he learned from his father on a Herkimer County farm, the home of the famous New York cheese. While a young man he moved to Perry, Ohio, and here December 22, 1869, was united in marriage with Lydia Treask Wire. In the spring of 1871 Mr. and Mrs. Neely moved to Grinnell and bought the farm three miles east of town on which he located what was widely and favorably known for so many years as the Neely Cheese Factory. Here they lived and here their children passed the period of childhood.

There were born to them four children, Walter J. Neely, now of Grinnell, Earl M. Neely of Long Beach and twin daughters, Ida A. and Ada I. who died of diphtheria within two days of each other and were buried in the same grave on the same day. This double death was a severe blow to the mother whose affection for her family was deep and strong and she never could find it in her heart to again enter the home which had been the scene of her great sorrow. As a result the family moved to Grinnell and Mr. Neely abandoned the business of cheese making and entered into the coal business. This occupation he followed with his son Earl until three years ago when the business was sold

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and Mr. Neely retired.

In and around Grinnell Mr. Neely was active in nearly every useful public enterprise which was undertaken. In politics he was a Republican and for years was a leading and active member of the party central committee.

In Grinnell he served on the council with unusual activity and enterprise although his opinions were always tempered with good judgment and a conservative spirit. He was active in the business management of the Methodist Church, was a regular attendant at its services and was for many years one of its honored trustees. In the Masonic Lodge he was especially active and trusty. He occupied the important chairs and held in the highest degree the respect and esteem of his brother Masons. He was also an active and useful member of the Eastern Star.

In every good work which he did he was helped and sustained by a loving and trustful wife who gave all that she had to make a happy and model home.

December 22, 1919, Mr. and Mrs. Neely celebrated the 50th anniversary of their marriage in their new home at east Grinnell where many joined with them in the earnest wish for long and useful years of mutual happiness yet to come.

On September 3, 1921, while on a visit to Perry, Ohio, Mrs. Neely passed away. The body was brought to Grinnell for burial and since that time Mr. Neely has made his home partly with his son Walter in Grinnell and partly with his son Earl in Long Beach.

When Mr. Neely left Grinnell in the fall of 1923 he visited many of his friends and gave them his good-bye word with the expression that he expected to return in the spring. But this was not to be. After a short but painful illness of two weeks he passed away on Friday the eleventh.