

FRIDAY, JANUARY 9, 1914.

OBITUARY.

Samuel Jackson Preston.

It is with sincere regret that the Herald chronicles the death of S. J. Preston, whose passing away occurred Tuesday evening, January 6. Mr. Preston was a man of more than usual energy, a pusher for everything that was good, one of the men who gave of the best he had to make Grinnell a live, growing, progressive town. In the days of his physical strength and business activity no man did more than he, and few did as much to aid in movements for the advancement of Grinnell interests. If any enterprise was started needing a booster Mr. Preston was always one of the first, and his enthusiasm, interest and effort always attracted others and secured their aid.

With all his quick, active, earnest nature he was one of the kindest of men, with a warm, generous heart, never failing to make friends, and always giving freely and largely to needed benevolences. In business he was the soul of honesty and in all his transactions everything was done "on honor." If he made mistakes they were few and in a long life of consistently doing the right, useful and needed things, any mistake was quickly forgotten. As he advanced in age and retired from more active life, he never lost his interest in progressive movements, the less active in aiding them. His friendship was a thing to be held in high esteem and his interest in a public enterprise was always a strong force in aiding its progress.

Samuel Jackson Preston was born at Hornellsville, N. Y., Sept. 3, 1832. He came of Revolutionary stock, his grandfather having fought in the war of Independence. At the age of four he lost his mother, his father surviving till 1878.

In the year 1857 Mr. Preston, at the age of 25, moved to Scott County, Iowa, and engaged in farming. On March 28, 1858, he was married to Miss Mary Augusta La Grange, who survives him. There were three children born of this union: a daughter, Mamie, who died in 1881, at the age of 15; Mr. Harry F. Preston, and Mrs. Fred Proctor, who survive, and are living in

Mr. Preston followed farming successfully in Scott County for twelve years. In 1869 he moved to Grinnell, where he bought a farm, which he owned and operated for some years. He always loved the ground and endeavored to produce the very best results always from his labor, and this characteristic was most prominent in his life to the very end, and even before his death he had systematically arranged for his spring work and his arden in a most perfect manner.

In 1870 he established the grocery business on the site on Main street, where it has been carried on ever since by himself, by F. O. Proctor and Grant Ramsey. In 1877 he built the Preston Opera House, which his unusual business efficiency carried through a successful existence. For five years, from 1891, he conducted the Preston Hotel, on Commercial Street, after which he retired from active business pursuits.

It will thus be seen that Mr. Preston was an active, energetic, successful man of business; and it may be added that he was a man who had the confidence of his associates and fellow citizens, and a man who gave freely of his energy, his time and his means to public service. He served twice on the Council, and was Chairman of the first Water Committee. He was especially interested in Fire Protection; was Fire Chief at the time of the great Grinnell fire, and was keenly interested, very shortly before his death, in the inspection of the new auto fire truck. He was a man of independent judgment and resolute purpose, a man who stood "four square to all the winds that blow." He died of apoplexy, almost instantaneously and without apparent suffering.

One of his very last acts, only a few hours or two before he died, was bedding and bedding down of his faithful old gray horse, which he had owned for nearly thirty-five years and which he had always been anxious to give the very kindest and best treatment that was possible. He was a man who always loved animals, and loved all that was best in nature, and will be missed by those who knew him, but especially by those who knew him best.

The funeral was held at the home yesterday afternoon conducted by Rev. Charles Noble. Old-time friends served as bearers, W. C. Rayburn, G. M. Christian, C. N. Dawley, G. H. Hamlin, I. I. Davis and A. McFutosh.