

ANOTHER EARLY 1925 SETTLER DIES

Member of Famous Phelps Family
Passes Away in Chicago After
Two Days Illness, 1925
died June 15,
L. C. PHELPS CAME TO GRINNELL
IN 1851 FROM WISCONSIN.

Life Spans Seventy-one Years of Life
Since First Settlers Set Up Site
of Town on Washington Prairie.

Those who are familiar with the early history of Grinnell know that among the earlier families to locate here was that of L. C. Phelps. The Phelps family was characterized by a strong manly erect appearance and an intelligent usefulness, which made them a most notable people in the earlier history of this colony.

L. C. Phelps, Sr., knew Hon. J. B. Grinnell before this colony was started, and his voice was against locating it in Missouri, a plan which Mr. Grinnell had once considered. Mr. Phelps was intensely opposed to slavery and wanted to settle in a state which he felt sure would always be against the slave interests. He was born in 1807 and came west in 1835, living in both Illinois and Wisconsin before he joined the Grinnell Colony.

Mr. Phelps came to Grinnell in April 1854, only a short time after the arrival of J. B. Grinnell. He at once threw himself into building up the educational interests of the town. His wife was an able helper and shared with him in his ambitions. It was in this atmosphere that the young members of the family grew up and for long years the Phelps family were well known and influential factors in developing the community.

They were always great lovers of music and were well known for their wonderful musical talent and delightful musical voices.

L. C. Phelps, Junior, was born at New Haven, Vermont, April 19, 1844 and died in Chicago, June 15, 1925, after a two days illness. He came to Grinnell with his father's family, ten years later, in the summer of 1854. Here he attended school and here he enlisted in the 46th Iowa Infantry, serving with many other Grinnell soldiers.

In 1868, the day after the election of General Grant to the Presidency, he was united in marriage in Marshall County with Miss Agnes L. Farr.

L. C. Phelps, Senior, was a resident of Addison county, Vermont, and the Farr family were residents of the same county and the same locality. The Farris moved, when the bride was a young girl, to a location near Potsdam, New York, and afterwards to this state and were residents of

See Old Homes

Marshall county at the time of their marriage. The families were well acquainted before they came west and it was a very natural thing that a union of the two families should be made after reaching Iowa.

After the marriage they occupied the home on Main St., which was their home so many years until their removal to Chicago in 1891. In Grinnell the two boys were born and attended school. Until 1891, Mr. Phelps was engaged in business in Grinnell in different capacities. At one time the firm of Phelps & Joy occupied the corner room where the city offices now are. Here was located the original Phelps Hotel and here was built the Phelps brick block about 1870.

Mr. Phelps was a quiet, unassuming man, generous in his disposition, approachable and kind. All, who knew him, recognized him as a friend and held him in highest esteem.

In character, he was true, and in his business relations with Grinnell people he won and made friends. Since the removal of Mr. and Mrs. Phelps to Chicago they have been frequent visitors in Grinnell and have been gladly welcomed by their old friends, who loved them as neighbors and respected the qualities of manhood and womanhood, which gave them standing and influence in the community.

The death of Mr. Phelps, which occurred Monday, was a distinct loss to a large circle of warm friends. The body was brought to Grinnell and funeral services were held at two-thirty o'clock Thursday at the home

he made his wants known enough to outline his plans for his annual paper at the Fortnightly club in Grinnell, to be given in February.

On the same day he signed some important papers when doctor and nurses thought he couldn't possibly do it. He signed his name with nearly paralyzed fingers on several papers by the mere force of his determination to do it. The signatures are clear and plain and unmistakable, and closely resemble the signature which he had signed to hundreds of documents for years.

Miss Nona Adkins, one of his employees, began some ten years ago to make a scrap book of his articles. She went back into the files of The Herald and collected many and they have been carefully preserved. Not one of these articles is about himself. They are about local problems, national problems, old time stories and events—not one word about himself, even when he was made Master Editor.

It probably never occurred to him to write about himself. He was much too busy and not in the least concerned about himself. Neither was he too much concerned about his neighbors and friends. He once said, "Surely we have a nice neighborhood. We all mind our own business." Another expression, meaning the same thing, which he often used when anyone was commenting on someone's behavior or acting of which he or she did not approve: "What's it to me? It's not my funeral." How many times we have heard him say that. And now, it was his funeral Saturday and how strange it seems! (daughter)