

OBITUARY.

5-12-1917

Elton C. Raffety.

Elton C. Raffety was born in Green County, Kentucky, in the year 1829 on the 9th day of December, he being the youngest of four children. His mother died when he was young.

In 1838 his father moved to Illinois. In 1836 the family came to Iowa settling at Cascade. At the age of fourteen he experienced religion, joining the Christian church. A few years later he united with the Baptist church of which he has been a member ever since. In 1847 he was married to Eveline G. Fort. To this union were born seven children: John, Willie, Frank, Edward and Ada, twins, Samuel and William. John and Frank died when young.

In 1852 during the "gold-craze" he started for California. Going by stage and on foot to St. Louis and after encountering many difficulties owing to lack of money and lack of transportation, he reached the Pacific coast.

He came to California across the mountains and on the great coast. He settled near Grinnell, where he lived for many years. He was a very successful farmer and a good business man. He was a member of the Baptist church and a very active worker in the church. He was a very kind and generous man and was loved by all who knew him.

miles from California. He reached San Francisco in the spring of 1853. He remained there about two years having his share of hardships and success. After being there about one and one half years he was taken sick with typhoid fever. When he recovered he came home by the way of Panama, crossing the isthmus by rail.

Soon after returning from California he was made deacon of the Baptist church and elected superintendent of the Sunday school, which position he held for twenty-four years.

In August, 1862, he enlisted in the Civil War, served three years, lacking a few months. He was wounded at the Battle of Black River Bridge and at the Siege of Vicksburg. In the spring of 1881 he moved to Poweshiek county, settling at Westfield, where he lived until 1893, when he moved to Grinnell. In February, 1903, his wife died. After several years he broke up housekeeping and went to live with his son, Samuel. From that time he kept growing more feeble. The last ten months he has been with his son, Ed, living near Mason City, where he died March 12, 1917, at the age of 87 years, 5 months and 15 days.

He leaves three sons and two daughters, one son and two grandchildren, but no great-grandchildren. He was a very kind and generous man and was loved by all who knew him. His life was a life of the highest standard of Christian living. A good and worthy man that lived to his best but the memory of his useful life will be cherished by his family and friends.

Card of Thanks.

We wish to thank the friends and neighbors for their kindness and sympathy during the sickness and death of our father and for the many beautiful floral offerings. Samuel Raffety, ety,