

7-27 ALONZO RICH. 1906

Alonzo Rich was born in Avon, N. Y., November 16, 1842 and died at his home in this city of cancer of the stomach July 24, 1906, age 63 years, 8 months, and 8 days. He was married to Mrs. Jane Clark in 1868 at Batavia, Genesee Co., N. Y.

Mr. Rich left New York state and came to Iowa in 1880, and settled in Malcom where he lived three years. He resided in Malcom township for a few years and the remaining eighteen years he spent in Grinnell.

While in his native state the Rebellion came on, and the call to arms spread far and wide. Mr. Rich heard the call and answered by enlisting in 1862, and gave three years and three months of his life to the service of his country. He enlisted in the 9th New York Heavy Artillery, belonged to the famous Sixth Corps, and served under Sheridan in the never-to-be-forgotten campaign in the Shenandoah valley which did so much toward bringing the war to a close. The service he rendered his country on the battlefield was that of a genuine soldier who fought when fighting was the order of the day, and when the war was concluded laid aside the implements of war for the quiet pursuits of days of peace. To him war was a severe necessity to be pursued vigorously until a righteous peace was secured, after which the soldier was to be the model citizen. He never boasted of his service. Indeed, he was reticent of the same. To have done his duty was no occasion for vain display.

Bro. Rich was converted in February 1890 and became a member of the Methodist Episcopal church at that time. His nature was not of the emotional type, and consequently, one must find the evidences of his religious life not in outward manifestation so much as in disposition of the heart, which, after all, is God's method of judgement. His love of the Father was genuine. He served efficiently as janitor of the church for many years. He had exalted ideas of the sacred character of the house of worship. He believed it to be God's house and was impatient of conduct not in keeping with the character of the place.

He was a man of principle, scorning everything which would tend to impair character, and loving all that was calculated to strengthen life.

His decline physically has been very rapid. Only a few weeks ago it appeared that he was subject to a malignant disease. No doubt, it has been affecting him for a long time, but its ravages were not apparent until very recently. Two weeks ago he was compelled to yield and went to his bed, which he had felt would be his dying bed, and such it proved. He passed away Tuesday evening, July 24th, near the time of the setting sun. To him the promise was fulfilled, "At evening time it shall be light," and he left us to greet the morning of an eternal day.

He leaves besides his wife one brother, in New York State, and a brother in Illinois, together with a sister in New York.

Funeral services were conducted by the Rev. J. M. McClelland at the Baptist church yesterday morning and the remains laid to rest in Hazelwood cemetery.