

# OLD SOLDIER DIES

11-22-1921  
Early Timer in Poweshiek Passes at  
Home of Daughter in Des  
Moines.

## HAD SERVED FAITHFULLY IN THE CIVIL WAR

Lived a Long and Useful Life True to  
Manly and Christian  
Principles.

There is something sad in the passing of a pioneer, who has lived a long and useful life, rugged and hardy, strong and useful, maintaining to the end the honesty of purpose which marked his long life. Such was the record of an old soldier buried Sunday in the family lot in Hazelwood.

Benjamin Vaughn Ruff was born in Chester, Nova Scotia, on January 9, 1836. While he was yet a babe his parents moved to the vicinity of St. Johns, New Brunswick, to a large tract of land which had been granted to his grandfather by the English government for special bravery in the English army.

A few years after the death of his father at St. Johns, he and his mother removed to Bureau county, Ill., while the young man was but 19 years old, where his mother was buried.

Mr. Ruff was the last surviving member of a family of eight children. When he was 15 his father died and he assumed the care of the family and did not marry during the lifetime of his mother to whom he was a devoted son. He served in the Civil War, enlisting from Princeton, first on call for 100 days. Then he re-enlisted for the remainder of the war, serving in Company A of the 148th Infantry. The greater part of his time of service he was Chief of Scouts under General Milroy. He was twice wounded and carried to his death a part of a bullet in his right limb. He was proud to have been cited for bravery by Milroy and for soldierly deportment by Brigadier General Dudley. Four other brothers served in this war.

In 1874 he was united in marriage to Nellie A. Monroe. To this union three daughters were born, one dying in infancy, and the other two still surviving him, Mrs. H. D. Hockenbury of Des Moines and Mrs. Chas. R. Baynham of Claremont, California. He also leaves three grandsons, Donald, Julian and Kenneth Hockenbury.

Soon after marriage he moved to a farm near Sheridan, Iowa. Here he served for many years as Justice of the Peace. In 1887 he moved to his present farm 6 miles from Grinnell. In 1894 he moved with his family to Grinnell. He was a member of the Congregational church. He had been an active member of the Gordon Granger Post, having been Commander of same. He had also served as a member of the city council and for many years had charge of the distribution of the Soldiers' Relief Fund.

His wife died in 1905 and since that time he has kept the home just as it was—for he loved his home, but he spent most of his winters in California with his daughter there and much time with his daughter in Des Moines, at whose home he was staying at the time of his death on November 16.

His passing away at this splendid age was a quiet falling asleep. He was a man of strong character and integrity who could boast that he had "never tasted liquor" and that "his word was as good as his note." His quiet, sincere kindness, sympathy and love will be much missed not only by his daughters and grandchildren but by his friends.

The funeral was held Sunday at the Campbell Funeral Home conducted by Rev. E. W. Cross. Miss Bartlett sang a solo, "Asleep in Jesus," Mr. Cross spoke feelingly of the value of character, from the thought, "I have fought a good fight." Miss Bartlett again sang, when Gordon Granger Post closed the service with the short Grand Army service.

Bearers were veterans of the Spanish war: J. P. Mowitt, B. A. Abel, Jack Foster, Lewis Campbell, Ferd Kiesel and J. L. Fellows, four of whom served in the Grinnell company in 1898.

Mrs. Chas. R. Baynham came from her Southern California home to be present at the funeral. From Des Moines accompanying the body to Grinnell were Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Hockenbury and three sons, Donald, Julian and Kenneth.