

1408. OBITUARY.

The past week has witnessed the passing of another of the pioneers who played a prominent part in the development of the town of Grinnell in its early day. William W. Sargent, who died at his home in this city on January 6, of cancer of the bowels, was one of the earliest of the settlers of this city, coming here under the advice of his fellow townsman, Dr. Thos. Holyoke, one of the founders, in 1856. During all the years that he has lived here, he has borne the name of a good man and a valuable citizen, taking an active part in public affairs in his younger days and in his later years furnishing an example of respected and kindly old age. Deceased was born in Searsport, Me., February 12, 1829. All his youthful associations in this coast town, called him to a seafaring life, so that it is little wonder that when he was just attaining his majority, he should have risen by merit through all the ranks from cabin boy to captain. His life reads like a story book, filled as it was with the adventures and thrilling escapes and, although always modestly told, with bravery and faithfulness. He lost both health and money by being caught in the yellow fever epidemic which swept Dutch Guiana in 1855 and was advised by his physician, our Dr. Holyoke, to come west. This he did, arriving in the little settlement here barely two years

after the first comers. He early acquired a prominent part in all good movements here but hearing the call of the sea again he returned to the east and when the civil war broke out he was in Europe, where he had gone in charge of a sailing vessel. As soon as he could reach his own shores again he enlisted with the 8th Iowa infantry and fought bravely through the rest of the war.

He returned here after the war and has lived his life quietly, peacefully, cheerfully ever since. He was a faithful member of the Congregational church and of Gordon Granger Post.

He was united in marriage to Miss Amelia Ellis at Searsport, Me., in 1849, who until her death here in 1892 was his faithful and loving helpmeet. One daughter was born of this happy union.

Mr. Sargent's chief characteristic was his kindness of heart. The writer will remember him as he saw him so often on the streets, with a cheerful word, a kindly smile, a friendly greeting for all. Where he went he left never a trace of anything low or base but only brightness and good feelings. Coming of fine New England stock he had the natural charm of New England refinement, which made a visit with him a delight.

The city mourns his loss with his daughter, Miss Emma Sargent, who survives him, and gladly pays its tribute to a clean life which has added to the joys of many another life and left the town of Grinnell better off for its having been lived.

Brief funeral services conducted by Rev. H. N. Dacomb were held at the Congregational church Wednesday afternoon and the remains laid to rest in Hazlewood cemetery. The pall bearers were C. F. Childs, W. M. Bartell, J. H. Blatherwick, H. A. Froid, E. Shadhoft and G. T. Baggs.

OBITUARY

Emma E. Sargent was born in Searsport, Maine, June 12, 1855, and came with her parents to Grinnell in 1856. She died Sunday, January 21, 1892, and was buried in Hazlewood Cemetery beside her parents, February 3, from the Congregational church.

Her father, Captain William W. Sargent, was of English ancestry, the oldest son of John Sargent, Jr., and was the only one of his family who came west. Her great grandfather, John Sargent Sr., came to Belfast, Maine, from Beverly, Mass., in 1804, and was a Charter member of the Congregational church in Belfast.

Her mother, whose maiden name was Amelia Ellis, was born in New York City, but went at the age of nine years to live in Maine, the oldest of a family of five, the children of Nathaniel and Ann Ellis. The parents of Mrs. Ellis were Westchester Quakers, of Westchester County, N. Y.

Emma Sargent, as a little girl, looked up with great respect to her Uncle James Ellis who was a student in Grinnell College, in the class of 1855. He was one of the "Hundred Day Boys" in the Civil War, died in Tennessee in August, 1864, of sunstroke, the name of James Ellis is on the memorial tablet in Alumni Hall of Grinnell College honoring the students that died in the Civil War. A beautiful character went out of this world when he died, looked up to, loved, and respected by both instructors and classmates. In a Sunday afternoon prayer meeting, R. M. Haines said, "James Ellis was loved by all. He was a scholar in Latin, Greek and mathematics to the extent that he was often called upon to tutor his own classmates. It was expected that he would study for the ministry, but the young life went out for his country's sake."

In her young ladyhood Emma spent a year in Minnesota with her Aunt Sarah Ellis, who had been married in Grinnell in the 60's to Arthur T. Clifford, formerly of Searsport, Maine, Emma's cousin. Dr. Frank Clifford, graduated in medicine in Iowa City, in the 80's. The Cliffords also had a daughter. Emma's uncle Joseph Ellis died at the age of 32. Her Uncle Wilson Ellis was a farmer.

Emma Sargent, herself, was educated in Grinnell High School and Grinnell College. Her study of French gave her much pleasure. She painted in oil. She played the piano. She possessed a sweet voice, and as a school girl sang in choruses in public performances. She was highly skilled with the needle, and many pieces of beautiful needlework were given to her friends. She possessed a real gift of writing, and contributed many newspaper articles of interest.

Emma Sargent had a strikingly keen mind, alert perception, and retentive memory, together with a genuine interest in historical events. Her ability in this line found full scope in her club work.

Miss Sargent became a member on June 4, 1894, of the Historical and Literary Club, an organization

that had been in existence since 1882, and she maintained her membership to the end of her life. In the records kept by that club is found an article of appreciation of her talent and faithfulness, saying in part:

"Miss Sargent maintained active membership during 33 years continuously, paying her dues and writing her annual paper even during the years when idleness or grinning prevented her attendance. The duty prevented her attendance was not encroached upon too severely, her papers were always fastidiously in their interest and dominating in their enthusiasm. Her genuine love of history inspires everyone with enthusiasm to her, history is life. The great figures in all history are her acquaintances. The great events in life are to her, experiences."

During the three years that she served as secretary of the club, the minutes of the meetings were a delightful recapitulation in brief of the substance of the papers, and have been highly praised for their smoothness and charm."

Mrs. Sargent was many years a member of the Eastern Star, her father having been a Mason. Mr. Sargent died in 1907, and Mrs. Sargent fifteen years earlier. All were members of the Congregational Church of Grinnell. Funeral services were held Wednesday afternoon at the Congregational church, with Rev. H. N. Dacomb officiating, who read from the Scriptures, using the passage, "I and come that they might have life, and have it more abundantly." Mrs. Mary Emma sang "Lead Kindly Light." Mrs. Bess Myers, worthy matron of the Eastern Star, read an obituary. Rev. E. M. Vittum offered prayer, giving thanks for the life of Emma Sargent, and for all the such lives. The sermon was by Rev. Ingalls, who said that in a very real sense, Emma Sargent represented the history of Grinnell. She came here when a babe, and when the town was such a new settlement, with such history of the town. She had been New Englander, and she had been church embodied her ideals and so bound