

3-3-1916
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OBITUARY

Curtis W. Sparks.

Lynnville Leader: Curtis W. Sparks, son of William P. Sparks and Angelina H. Sparks, was born in Jasper county, Iowa, July 12, 1863, and his whole life has been lived in the vicinity in which he was born. On April 29, 1892, he was united in marriage with Carrie, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Eden Hunt. Having no children of their own, their home was opened to his nephew, Millard, who since he was three years old has been one with them.

At one time Curtis W. Sparks was a member of the Friends church, he having been converted in a series of meetings held by Matilda Atkinson, about twenty-seven years ago. He was a member of the Masonic and Odd Fellow orders.

While we had known for a number of days that he was very sick, we were shocked as a community when we were told last Friday morning that C. W. Sparks could live only a few hours. It was my privilege to talk and pray with him a little after 6 o'clock that morning, at which time he said he was trusting in Jesus the best he knew how. Again about 1 o'clock I sat by his side and we talked; beckoning to Millard he asked him to meet him in Heaven. Then as calmly and deliberately as he ever talked of a transaction in business, though his breathing was labored, he said: "I used to be in the church, I'm not now; I always prided myself on my morality and honesty," but I've found that is not enough and I've asked my Heavenly Father to forgive me and He has. I'm trusting in Jesus." Men, listen to me; if Curtis W. Sparks, with his love for his orders, his devotion to their principles and precepts, his clean life morally and his unswerving honesty found Christ a necessity, can we hope to find peace in the hour of death in anything other than this same Christ? A little more than three hours later he said, "Lift me up." They raised him, and in a few brief moments he was gone to meet his God, aged 52 years, 6 months, 27 days. Always cheerful in home, patient and uncomplaining in sickness and suffering.

Z. H. DOAN.

I wish to add a tribute of respect and love to the memory of one so highly esteemed and whose place in the community will be hard to fill.

The funeral was held from the Friends church Monday at 2 o'clock, conducted by Rev. Odell of Viola, assisted by Revs. Doan and Clements. The Odd Fellows, Masons, and Rebekahs were present in bodies, and the house was packed full of relatives and friends, those from out of town being: Jerry Sparks, of New Sharon; Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Taylor and son Claude, of Newton; Misses Osie and Melissa Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. Black, W. P. Sparks, of Grinnell; and Mr. Van Gorkon, of Pella.

At the close of the services the Odd Fellows and Masons gave brief and impressive portions of their ceremonies. The music rendered by the choir, a solo by Mrs. Black of Grinnell, and a duet by Revs. Doan and Odell, were most appropriate and excellent. Large and beautiful contributions of flowers, by friends far and near, indicated the high regard in which the deceased was held.

Mr. Sparks was one of a family of sixteen children, and with the exception of one who died in infancy, he was the first to be called.

Interment was in Woodland cemetery.