

# Arthur D. Talbott, Christian Gentleman

When the world's judgment of Arthur D. Talbott is crystallized he will be remembered as a man quiet in character, courteous and generous, a Christian in his business as well as in his daily life and a success in the occupation which he followed.

Mr. Talbott's first introduction to Grinnell was when he married one of Grinnell's attractive young women, Miss Carrie Flook December 14, 1898, the ceremony being performed by Rev. E. M. Vittum. At that time he was a young druggist in Brooklyn. He belonged to a pioneer family. His grandfather was John J. Talbott, the first settler in eastern Poweshiek in 1846, only two years after settlers had come into Union township on the south. Other members of the Talbott family followed soon after. Mr. Talbott graduated from the Brooklyn high school in the class of 1889. He took a course in pharmacy and entered upon the drug business immediately after. He came to Grinnell with his wife when the Spaulding block was put up and conducted a drug store in the room now occupied by the Star Clothing Company. Later he moved to the corner room in Grinnell Block and when the Merchants National Bank was built he moved in to the room now occupied.

His death occurred Monday morning at 5:30 February 25, 1929, after a long illness. During that time he had his ups and downs and was able for a long time to enjoy his friends. He gradually grew weaker until his illness culminated in his death.

A. D. Talbott was born on a farm near Brooklyn May 24, 1871, the son of D. C. and Janet Finch Talbott. In his boyhood life he showed the same traits of character which marked him

during his later years. It was his aim in the conduct of his business as a druggist to maintain it in keeping with the Christian ideal of the owner. In the days when druggists were taking permits to sell liquor for medical purposes he conducted his business without a permit and conducted it successfully.

As he grew older he grew stronger in the esteem of the community and during all the years that he has lived here no one has been held in higher esteem and no one has exhibited more marked traits of generous human character. In his family relations he was exceedingly fortunate. The wife who cared for him so kindly during his late illness was during all the years a help to him in his daily living and in his social and church relations that were especially enjoyed and appreciated.

Mr. and Mrs. Talbott were the parents of four children, Stanley, John, Robert and Arthur D., Jr., three of whom are graduates of Grinnell college, and one, Arthur, is still a student here. They were exceedingly fortunate not only in the student life of their sons but in the promise which they have given of success in after years and it is just to say that no one appreciated and loved his family more than Arthur D. Talbott.

Funeral services will be held at the home Wednesday morning at 9:30. Dr. E. A. Steiner, a long time friend will be in charge and Rev. Drs. Vittum and Holt will have a part in the service.

His one brother, Dr. E. F. Talbott, of Grinnell and one sister Mrs. Leah Brush Talbott of Los Angeles survive him.

GRINNELL REGISTER, GRINNELL, IOWA

## Fast Rites For A. D. Talbott



ARTHUR D. TALBOTT

# Funeral Of A. D. Talbott

Largely Attended Services Were Held  
from the Home Wednesday  
Morning.

DR. E. A. STEINER PAID  
A GRACEFUL TRIBUTE

Rev. W. W. Bolt, D. D., and Rev. E.  
M. Vitum Assisted in the  
Services.

The funeral of A. D. Talbott was very largely attended by a circle of appreciative friends. The services were in charge of Dr. E. A. Steiner who was assisted by Rev. W. W. Bolt, D. D., pastor of the church of which Mr. Talbott was a member and Rev. E. M. Vitum, the pastor who performed the marriage ceremony for himself and wife. Music was by Mrs. J. P. Ryan who played a harp solo, "Prayer" by Hasselman, a selection which was a special favorite of Mr. Talbott.

Dr. Steiner's words were especially appropriate and applied with unusual grace and feeling to the character and general estimate of Mr. Talbott. Every word was a kind word and every thought emphasized the quiet geniality and courtesy of the man who had made his life so notable among us.

Following is briefly what the Doctor said:

"Steadily each day for many years he served in the humble capacity of a storekeeper. He was completely absorbed by his task of serving the public and found his reward not only in the honest service he rendered. He did not know the tricks of showy salesmanship, his success was dependent upon giving the public an honest dollar's worth of goods for each dollar. With the goods he passed over the counter, he added that mysterious something which we call personality which was reassuring, comforting, helpful. Just as mariners can set

This picture of A. D. Talbott was made from a kodak snap shot, taken while pointing out to Mrs. Talbott some special beauty spot in Boston while on a trip east about two years ago. The camera caught and recorded that look of pleasure shared with a loved one of a friend. It is a wonderful likeness of Mr. Talbott and The Register reproduces it here that it may bring back to his neighbors and friends the pleasing personality of this kindly, courteous gentleman. Just so he looked on his return from that trip when describing some of their delightful experiences.

The funeral services for Arthur D. Talbott was held at his late home on Broad street, Wednesday morning, February 27, at 9:30 Dr. W. W. Bolt of the Congregational church read a few passages from the scriptures. Mrs. J. P. Ryan rendered a beautiful solo, on the harp. It was one that the late Mr. Talbott had heard Mrs. Ryan play on one occasion and he always remembered it with a great deal of pleasure.

Dr. Edward A. Steiner spoke beautifully of his old friend. He knew him intimately and he was a real friend. He said, in part:

"Steadily each day for many years he served in the humble capacity of a storekeeper. He was completely absorbed by his task of serving the public and found his reward not only in the honest service he made but in the honest service he rendered. He did not know the tricks of showy salesmanship, his success was dependent upon giving the public an honest dollar's worth of goods for each dollar. With the goods he passed over the counter, he added that mysterious something which we call personality which was reassuring, comforting, helpful. Just as mariners can set

their course by the North Star, so one could be guided by A. D. Talbott's word about his goods.

After all—I wonder whether before God it matters much whether we write an honest book or sell it; whether we prescribe a healing prescription or carefully fill it; whether we manufacture honest goods or retail it.

By this test of giving his best to the public, he was a great and good man. I was proud to call myself his friend. I often asked his advice, he gave it, always cautiously and without obtrusion. He lived his largest life in this beautiful and satisfying home, with his loyal and devoted wife and his sons. He helped to give it the atmosphere of restfulness and comfort which is its chief characteristic. To have helped to found a home like this is glory, as great in its way as to rule a kingdom and found a dynasty.

Something snapped in the body of this man a little more than a year ago, and the A. D. Talbott we knew died, though his body lingered on. Occasionally the old, steady light came back and shone out of his eyes, and I shall hold it and I shall recall it with great joy that he called me by name as that time he passed over his honest face. Like the star which dies, yet leaves a trail of light, so he survives in Grinnell, in all its institutions, in the family to which he left his good name. And in the heart of the Eternal, out of which his spirit came and to which it returned."

Rev. E. M. Vitum offered prayer. The pall bearers were Will C. Rayburn, V. G. Preston, Prof. C. L. Lavel, Judson Blakely, Glenn Johnson and Chas. K. Needham. Burial was in Hazelwood cemetery. A large number of his old friends in Brooklyn were present to pay their last respects.

Feb. 27, 1929

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Bearers were Prof. C. F. Lavel, C. K. Needham, A. J. Blakely, Jr., W. C. Rayburn, Glenn Johnston and V. G. Preston.