

J. W. Vest Dies At His Home In Montezuma

1-11-1935

(From the Montezuma Republican)

J. W. Vest, well past 84 years of age, died at his home at Montezuma Sunday evening at 7 o'clock, following a several months' illness, which saw this sturdy pioneer grow feebler and feebler, until he was but a shell of the former community builder. His death caused a feeling of sorrow to pass over the community in which he had so long been a steady and stalwart figure, and the hand of fellowship is extended to Mrs. Vest, his beloved widow.

Brief funeral services were conducted from the home at 2 o'clock Tuesday afternoon by the Rev. J. H. Krenmyre, pastor of the Methodist church. Interment was in the Montezuma cemetery.

Coming to Iowa from Manchester, Ohio, with his parents in 1857, at the age of 7, he was a continuous resident of this county and for most of the years he lived right in this vicinity. Seven years were spent on a farm near Malcom. In the early days he farmed during the summer months and taught school in the winters, leaving someone on the farm with the family. For a time he attended Iowa college, later called Grinnell college. In 1899 he was elected treasurer of Poweshiek county and served until 1906. From that office he went into the Montezuma Savings bank as cashier under A. C. McGill. He was soon elected president, and was known as the oldest active president of a bank in the state. At the time of his death he was president of the Montezuma State bank, although for the past few months he had not taken an active part in bank affairs.

grandchildren and one great-grandchild survive.

The Vests' wedding trip was made to the old Malcom fair, and the journey accomplished with a horse and buggy. They did not pass another buggy all day, as the remainder of the travelers were driving wagons or ox teams. This brief bit of history vividly points to the great changes which took place within the life of Mr. Vest.

In 1932 at Greeley, Colo., the Vests celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary, which was made much of by their children and many friends.

For many years the Vest home was east of town and comprised 320 acres. It is still spoken of by that name amongst the oldest residents of the city. The farm is now owned by Dr. E. B. Wilcox of Oskaloosa.

In 1872 he was married to Mary Katherine Johnson, and to this union eleven children were born, nine of whom are living: Fred of Hayden, Colo., Frank of Malcom, Mrs. Margaret Newkirk, J. W. H. and Joe of Montezuma, Mrs. W. C. Hunt and C. W. Vest of Fort Collins, Colo., Mrs. Amy Stutsman of St. Joseph, Mo., and Mrs. Flossie Johnson of Los Angeles, Calif. Also a brother, Dr. F. E. Vest, and a sister, Mrs. Mattie Wilson, both of Topeka, Kas. Besides these 15