

Funeral Of 6-14 L. K. Watters 4-11-1930

L. K. Watters, eldest son of Henry A. and Margaret Kemp Watters, was born in Belmont County, Ohio, February 8, 1843 and departed this life at Alhambra, California, February 23, 1930, just a few days after he and his companion had passed their sixty first wedding anniversary. He was the oldest of five children, his youngest brother, Dr. P. K. Watters, Watsonville, Cal., and a half sister, Mrs. Emma Prall of Scranton, Iowa, being the only surviving members of the family.

Mr. Watters had a well earned place among the pioneers of the middle west. A brief history of his life serves as an epitome of the development of the states of Iowa and Nebraska and is typical of the characteristics that marked the sterling men and women who laid the foundations of middle west institutions. When he was yet a boy his parents moved to Iowa locating near Tipton in Cedar County. When the call came for volunteers from President Lincoln for service in the Civil War he responded by enlisting, May 1862, in Company B, Thirtyfifth Iowa Infantry. He served for three years.

After the war he went to Ohio for his bride and on February 11, 1869 was united in marriage with Catherine J. Lindsey. They came to Iowa and for three years lived near West Liberty. In 1872 they gathered their belongings together and drove to Nebraska in a covered wagon to take up a homestead. They settled in Colfax county near Schuyler. Here they took an active part in the development of the community, being interested in school and church. They were active in organizing and building the church which was named the Lindsey church after Mrs. Watters. In the midst of these pioneering activities, Mr. and Mrs. Watters raised a large family, seven children being born to them, all of whom grew to maturity except Ralph L. who died in early childhood.

In 1893 they decided to return to Iowa for the purpose of educating their children. Mr. Watters bought land in Chester Township and the tract near the east part of Grinnell known as Snow's Corner. Most of the children were educated in Grinnell College, three of them graduating from the institution. After the interests of the children had been provided for in education, Mr. and Mrs. Watters bought property in Citronelle, Aabama. Here the same pioneering spirit led them to develop it into a winter home. By their own industry they built the home and became a part of the community life. For the past several years they spent the winters in the new home. At the solicitation of their daughter, Dr. Nelle M. Watters, the past winter was spent in California. Here Mr. Watters was taken seriously ill and after ten days of sickness passed away as stated above.

Mr. Watters was an intensely loyal man to his contry. He was a religious man and had his membership in the Methodist Episcopal church. He maintained his faith to the end. He is survived by his widow, Catherine J. Watters; two sons, Thomas H. Watters, Goodland, Kansas and Arthur G. Watters, Flagler, Colo.; three daughters, Mrs. Frank Matz, South Sioux City, Neb.; Mrs. H. E. Soffel of Detroit and Dr. Nelle M. Watters of Chicago. The eldest son, Joseph Ernest died May 17, 1926. Seven grandchildren also survive.

Funeral services were held in the Methodist church in Grinnell, Ia., conducted by the Rev. George Blagg on Thursday, April 10, 1930. The hymns, "Lead, Kindly Light" and "Jesus, Lover of My Soul" were sung by Miss Arline Urban, accompanied by Miss Eunice Cutler at the organ. The pall bearers were, Messrs. John Evans, Charles Hays, Ed Williams, D. M. Arnold, R. J. Smith and Lew Campbell. Interment was made in Hazelwood.

The services at the grave were in charge of the American Legion. A firing squad gave a salute.