

ALBERT G. WILLIAMS

Albert G. Williams was born in Croydon, New Hampshire, November 18, 1840 and died at his home in Campbell California, November 12, 1922. In his seventeenth year Mr. Williams left the hills of New Hampshire and followed his sister, Mrs. Newton Sherman, to the prairies of Iowa, arriving in Grinnell in the spring of 1857. For several years he attended school in Grinnell winters and worked on the surrounding farms summers. In Mar., 1866, he was married to Miss Eliza Blair and they set up housekeeping on the farm in Chester which he has kept all these years, adding to the original home place until he owned 280 acres of Iowa's rich land. Two children came to gladden the home; Mrs. Lavinia Grattan, who with her five sons is now living on the farm in Chester, and Worthin H. Williams who died in Campbell California, October 30, 1920.

For twenty seven years, Mr. and Mrs. Williams were prosperous, substantial, helpful members of the Chester community. It was always a delight to visit their hospitable home, partake of their good cheer and go away, refreshed by the never failing feast of wit and information. In the early years Mr. Williams started a nursery that became known not only in his own community but throughout the state. In it, he experimented until he found the fruit adapted to Iowa soil and climate. How the children of the early days, half starved for fresh fruit, did enjoy the grapes, strawberries and apples that came from his farm. Some of the trees, on

the college campus came from this nursery and only a few weeks ago he pointed out on his farm beautiful tall trees of varieties which probably are not to be found elsewhere in Iowa.

The rigorous Iowa winters and the long cold rides to Grinnell brought on a bronchial trouble so that in 1893 he again started west, this time going to the coast. He and Mrs. Williams bought land and built them a home in the new town of Campbell California, and there again did pioneer work, keeping, however, their farm in Chester which they rented. Mr. Williams coming back often to look after it. His return trip this fall was the twenty-ninth time he had made the trip between Iowa and California. On arriving home he appeared unusual health but only two days later, on November 1, the fatal illness came upon him and in twelve days he had gone. He was laid to rest in California by his wife, whose death had occurred just two months after they had celebrated their golden wedding in March 1916.

Mr. Williams was a man of sterling character and unswerving opinions; a staunch friend, respected by all who knew him. He was a man of wide knowledge, gained largely by the habit of accurate observation and a retentive memory. He was a typical New England philosopher, who delighted in working out the problems of life for himself. In his later days nothing delighted him more than to be surrounded by a crowd of children asking them questions and entertaining them with his quaint stories.

He was interested in all public affairs up to the last, and enjoyed attending the open house of the new High School building in Grinnell this fall and contrasting it with the building in which he went to school.