

# The Audubon Advertiser

Audubon, Iowa

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Page 1

## Death Takes Last Civil War Vet. In This County

### Life Was Filled With Many Useful Activities

Death came to John C. Bonwell, Audubon County's last Civil War Veteran, at his home near Viola early Sunday morning. He would have been 101 years old this coming November 6. Funeral services were held Tuesday afternoon at the Presbyterian Church with Rev. C. H. Orf officiating. Burial was made in the Viola cemetery.

John C. Bonwell was born on November 6, 1842 in Highland Co. Ohio, the son of Nathaniel Bonwell and Charity Dowman, deceased, and passed away at his home in Viola Center, where he lived for nearly 60 years, on October 3<sup>rd</sup> at the age of 100 years, 10 months and 27 days.

His boyhood was spent on a farm near Hillsboro, Ohio. He enlisted in the Civil War in which he served as 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant in Co. A, 176<sup>th</sup> Infantry. On December 27, 1866 he was married to Ellen Miller, who passed away in September 1918. To this union seven children were born. One son, John and two daughters passed away in infancy. Lilly Blanche, the eldest daughter died at the age of 13. Surviving children are Pauline, Mrs. H. E. Jewell of Coon Rapids, Gertrude, Mrs. Fred Herschel and Leora, Mrs. Earl Jewell both of

Viola. One granddaughter, Violet Hoffman Gardner and three grandsons Dr. Harrison Jewell of Perry, Dr. John Jewell of Coon Rapids and Holly Jewell, a grandson Thurlew Jewell of Milford passed away on the 14<sup>th</sup> of February this year, six great-granddaughters Polly, Camilla and Pricilla Jewell, Shirley Gardner Knudsen and Maryellen and Charlotte Gardner, one sister, Sarah Thayer of Enid, Oklahoma, two half-brothers, Shadrack Bonwell of Pocatello, Idaho and William Bonwell of McComb, Ill.

Mr. Bonwell came to Iowa in 1869 and lived for a time in Marion County, and then he moved to Jasper County where he engaged in farming and teaching school. He then, with his family, moved to Exira where he operated a drug store. In 1876 he moved to Viola Township where he operated a drug store for a time, he also engaged in the insurance and real estate business. He then purchased a farm on which he spent the remainder of his life with the exception of 4 years, which he lived in Audubon so his daughters could attend the Audubon high school.

He was a life long member of the Methodist church.

He was a 32<sup>nd</sup> and 33<sup>rd</sup> sessions of the state legislature. He served on the Viola school board and was Audubon

County's supervisor for seven years. He was Republican township chairman for 25 years and had been a delegate to the Republican State Convention twelve times.

Mr. Bonwell took an active part as a member of the Masonic lodge, being a member of the Shrine and also a member of the Knights Templar. The latter organization honored him by holding a birthday party at his home each year since his eightieth birthday. One of his desires was to live to celebrate his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, which was last year.