

The Belle Plaine Union

Belle Plaine, Iowa

Thursday, April 22, 1943

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Dr. W. A. Vincent Last Civil War Veteran Dead

Enlisted in Army at 16 and Served 3 Years

Dr. W. A. Vincent, pioneer Belle Plaine physician, only remaining Benton County Civil War Veteran and one of less than 100 remaining in Iowa, passed away at his home at 1408 8th Avenue, Tuesday evening about 9:30. Death was due to old age.

For years, Dr. Vincent has been one of Belle Plaine's revered citizens and seemed to greatly enjoy it, especially on Memorial day when he was given a seat on the platform at the exercises, entertained by the Rotary club and on similar occasions when he enjoyed telling of his experiences as a boy who went through three years of the Civil War in which he was wounded twice, once at the Battle of Richmond in 1864 and again at Burgess farm. During the last couple of years, however, it was hard for him to get around so he contented himself by visiting with friends who dropped in, by reading and recounting the days of old. He also got a great deal of enjoyment telling of the days when he first started to study medicine under the late Dr. William Mayo of Rochester, Minn., and got quite a bang out of his annual visit to that place where he visited what he called his

"first baby," a 75 year old man, who was his first obstetrical case.

The son of an Ulster county, New York dairy farmer and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Christine Vincent, he was born July 14, 1846, and would therefore have been 97 years of age on his next birthday. His boyhood was spent near Kingston, N. Y., where he attended the rural schools. At the age of 16 he enlisted with the Union Army and was assigned to the infantry, Second division, First Brigade of the Army of the Potomac. He was with Grant's army at Appomattox, Va., when General Lee surrendered and his account of that great event were well worth listening to.

After the war he graduated with a B. S. degree from Fairfield, N. Y. College. He taught school one winter before locating in Minnesota where he studied and taught to pay his way through medical college. He was graduated from Rush Medical College, Chicago, in 1881.

On May 6th, 1884, he married Miss Elizabeth Paul of Onslow, Ia., and located at Woodbine, Iowa, where he practiced four years before coming to Belle Plaine. Mrs. Vincent died February 4, 1937, and since then his daughter, Mrs. Vera Bohlman, has cared for him in his home here.

In addition to his daughter, he is survived by a son, Paul Vincent, of

Kansas City, Mo.; three grandchildren, Pvt. Vincent Bohlman, of the Army Air Corps, Mrs. Roy Mansfield, of Minneapolis, Minn., and Willa Mae Vincent of Kansas City, Mo. He is also survived by two great-grandchildren, Carol Jean and Roy Richard Mansfield.

At one time at Rochester, Minn., Dr. Vincent was a member of the Masonic Lodge, but he had not been an active member for many years.

Funeral services will be held on Sunday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock from the Christ Methodist Church and will be in charge of the Rev. W. G. Warren of the Christ Methodist Church of which he was a member for many years. Burial will be in Oak Hill Cemetery beside his wife, and John Jennings Post of the American Legion will render the traditional three volleys and blow taps. The body is at the Hrakak Funeral Home.