

The Bulletin Journal

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LAST VETERAN OF CIVIL WAR IN THE COUNTY

GEO. W. KAYS ANSWERS CALL

Aged Man Passes Away At Advanced Age Of 93 Years – Was Native Of Pennsylvania – He Operated Store Here

George W. Kays, 93, last Buchanan county surviving Civil war veteran, died Thursday afternoon at his home in this city. The body was taken to the Swan & Leytze funeral home. Funeral services were held there Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock, the Rev. R. J. Netting officiating, with burial at Mt. Hope cemetery. Members of the American Legion were casket bearers, attended in a body and the committal services were with military honors.

Mr. Kays was born in Mercer County, Penn., Oct. 18, 1847; he went with his parents to Plaiteville, Wis., when he was 3 years old. In 1850 both of his parents died in a cholera epidemic, leaving five sons and two daughters. The oldest brother, James R., a

blacksmith, took over care of the family. When the Civil war broke out the four younger sons enlisted, the oldest, James R., also enlisting but being rejected as physically unfit. James R. died in Waterloo at the age of 100 years and 17 days. George W. enlisted at the age of 15 in Co. A, 41st Wisconsin infantry in May, 1864, and served to the end of the war. He was wounded in the knee at Memphis, Tenn. and as a result one of his legs had to be amputated in 1870. He came to Independence in 1869. He was a stonemason, but had to discontinue that work when his limb was amputated. He was married July 18, 1900, to Miss Catherine Clue. They operated a neighborhood store in the First ward here for many years, retiring in 1913. Surviving, besides the widow, are two sons, Arthur R., of this city, and William, Chicago, and a daughter, Mrs. Alice Strickely, of Cedar Rapids.

Mr. Kays lived to an age attained by but few, to be the last surviving Civil war veteran in the county, honored and esteemed by all.