

Hold Rites for Last Veteran

Service Held Today For B. S. Armstrong, 95 Years Old

Benjamin S. Armstrong, Davis County's last surviving Civil war veteran, died at his home in Bloomfield at 6:15 o'clock Tuesday morning. He celebrated his 95th birthday anniversary last March 4th. One of the now comparatively few remaining members of the Grand Army of the Republic in Iowa, Mr. Armstrong was active until the past few months. Confined to his home most of last winter, his health failed rapidly. Since W. J. Shuck, former Fox River Township resident, moved to Appanoose County about a year ago, Mr. Armstrong has been Davis County's lone surviving Civil war veteran.

Final rites were held at the Curl Funeral home this morning with Rev. L. D. Thomas preaching the funeral sermon. Burial rites were at the I.O.O.F. cemetery with an American Legion firing squad firing a final salute to Davis county's last surviving Civil war veteran. Taps were sounded for the veteran by Robert Hotchkiss.

Born at Pleasant Plain, in Clermont County, Ohio, March 4, 1845, Mr. Armstrong came to Davis County with his parents when he was nine years old. The family settled on a farm north of Troy. David Armstrong, a surviving brother, still resides on the old home place.

Mr. Armstrong enlisted for service in the Union Army, at Pulaski, November 12, 1863. He was a member of Company E, Third Iowa Cavalry. During his two years of service, he escaped serious injury but encountered many exciting experiences. One of them was the battle of Mark's Mill. The Bloomfield soldier and the rest of the troop with 1,006 mule teams were riding through the rain. The teams stuck in the mud and while the men attempted to get them out, the rebels attacked and the Yanks were forced to run, every man for himself. Another highlight of Mr. Armstrong's war experience was the time when he and four other Union soldiers guarded Jefferson Davis, the president of the Confederacy, after his capture. He was honorably discharged from the Union army at Atlanta, Georgia, August 9, 1865. He was the last surviving member of Company E, and one of the only two living veterans of the Third Iowa Cavalry.

In June 1938, Mr. Armstrong attended the reunion of the Blue and the Gray on the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg, held at the site of the famous battle.

Mr. Armstrong was married December 16, 1872 to Rachel S. Gore, who survives him. Other survivors include the brother, David Armstrong, north of Troy; an only child, Mrs. R. D. Sullivan, a grandson, Lowell Sullivan, all of Bloomfield; a granddaughter, Mrs. R. S. Underhill, of Davenport; and three great grandchildren.