

FINAL RITES HELD FOR R.G. MARTIN, 95

LAST CIVIL WAR VETERAN

Death Came Wednesday, August 30 to Well Known Rippey Resident

Final rites for Greene County's last Civil war veteran, 95-year-old Robert George Martin, were conducted at the Rippey schoolhouse Sunday, Sept. 3, at 2:30 p. m. The Rev. J. R. Krenmyer, pastor of the Rippey church, was in charge.

Mrs. Wilmuth Peters, accompanied by Mrs. Bonnie Anderson, sang "Going Home." Interment was in the Grand Junction cemetery, with American Legionnaires Harry C. Smith, Harry G. Kupfer, Jesse L. Groves, Roy W. Anderson, Robert Ethell and Raymond Curry serving as pallbearers.

Mr. Martin died early Wednesday afternoon, August 30, at the Veterans' hospital in Des Moines, where he had been taken 11 days before. While he was there, he celebrated his 95th birthday. That day, Friday, Aug. 25, the other patients and doctors arranged a party in his honor, with a birthday cake and entertainers from a Des Moines radio station. Although his condition was weak, he was able to enjoy the celebration.

He was born Aug. 25, 1849, in Athens County, Ohio, and as a young boy of 15 he first enlisted in the 62nd Ohio infantry as a drummer boy. The story goes that he stood on the figures "one" and "eight" so he could swear he was "over 18." The regiment had too many drummer boys, so he was sent home. Feb. 24, 1865, however, he enlisted in company D of the 188th Ohio infantry and was sent to Camp Chase, later serving at Louisville, Ky., Nashville, Tenn., Murfreesboro and Chattanooga.

He served principally as a messenger boy, and was in the service just seven months and one day. When he was mustered out Sept. 25, 1865, he was exactly one month past 16 years of age.

He came to Iowa in 1886, settling in Linn County. He met his wife-to-be, Sarah White, a schoolteacher, while he was spending the winter of 1869-70 in Wisconsin with an uncle and they were married the next summer, Aug. 22, 1870. He then came to Greene County, settling in Dana. There he was justice of the peace and mayor, and his wife was one of the first teachers in that section.

They moved to Rippey in 1918, and that same year, Mrs. Martin died. He lived for the last 74 years in Greene County, and after his wife's death he

maintained his own home in Rippey. He also served as mayor. It was only in the last six months that he did not live alone, a daughter, Mrs. Carrie Harris of Kemmerer, Wyo., coming this summer to spend some time with him.

The Rev. Mr. Krenmyer mentioned in his sermon that Mr. Martin's daughter-in-law, Mrs. Mably Martin, was more than a daughter-in-law. Her home was near his, and he took most of his meals with her. She was and is in a real sense, a daughter to him. Besides his daughter, Mrs. Harris, he leaves a son, Frank Martin of Slayton, Minn. Two sons, the late Dr. W. G. Martin of Rippey and the late Sam Martin of Dana, preceded their father in death.

His father, Thomas B. Martin, also served in the Civil War, being in the army until he was mustered out after two years' service. Robert G. Martin offered his father's philosophy to friends – the advice which his father gave him when

he entered the service so many years ago – “I would rather see you enrolled among the dead than to know that you were ever unfaithful in the hour of duty.”

At the funeral services Sunday, a firing squad and color bearers from Jefferson post of the American Legion took part in the services, and the ladies of the G. A. R. at Perry had a short service following the sermon.

Relatives attending the services from a distance included Mrs. Harris of Kemmerer, Wyo., Mr. and Mrs. Frank Martin of Slayton, Minn., Mr. and Mrs. Rex Martin of Clarksburg, the Rev. and Mrs. Warren Martin of Rockwell City, Mr. and Mrs. Chester Henry of Racine, Wis., and Mrs. Don Martin of Cedar Rapids.

Surviving besides his two children are a sister, Mrs. Hannah Grow of Rippey, 12 grandchildren, and several great-grandchildren.