

E. P. Taylor, County's Last G. A. R. Vet, Dies

Succumbs At 4 O'Clock Monday Afternoon At Age Of 98

Elliott P. Taylor, 98-year old veteran of the Civil War and the last surviving member of the Grand Army of the Republic residing in Jasper County, died Monday afternoon at about four o'clock, following an illness of several weeks, the last two weeks of which he was bedfast. The end came at the farm home west of Newton of his daughter, Mrs. Julia Black, with whom he spent much of his time in later years.

Mr. Taylor, who served in 1942 as commander of the Iowa G. A. R., had been active up until his illness this spring. Except for a little difficulty with his hearing in later years, he was ever active and enjoyed nothing better than to mingle and visit with folks.

Shock of Son's Death

The shock of the death of his son, Clifford, of Marshalltown this spring hit him pretty hard and relatives said that he seemed to begin to fall from that date until he was forced to his bed two weeks ago. Sunday his daughter, Mrs. Jennie Grant of Fairfield, with whom he also lived part of the time, spent the day here visiting with him and Mrs. Black. Monday morning, Mrs. Black said, he seemed to take a turn for the better.

About 3:30 o'clock Monday afternoon, Mrs. Lee Rucker, a neighbor, stopped by to greet him and he talked with her for a little. Thirty minutes later, he slipped away. He had been conscious to the last. With him were Mrs. Black and her husband, D. R. Black, and Mrs. Maria Stevens, who had been helping care for him during his illness.

Services at Glasgow

The body is being taken to Glasgow, Ia., a small town near Fairfield, Ia., which had been his old home for many years. Services will be held in the Methodist church there Thursday afternoon at two o'clock. Burial will be at Glasgow.

Comrade Taylor, as he was known to his host of friends in the G.A.R. and affiliated organizations was born Dec. 23, 1845 in Aurora, Ill. The family moved to Glasgow, Ia. where he was living when the Civil War broke out. His father served in the war as an army surgeon. Elliott, then a youth not yet 16, wanted to enlist in the Union army but his father said he was too young. Nevertheless, the enterprising youth was not to be denied and he went ahead on his own and enlisted. He was accepted and he served for four years in the Civil War as a member of Company M, 4th Iowa cavalry.

The regiment, at one time 1,200 strong, saw a great deal of active service mostly scout duty, making raids into the

enemy's country. As the company was about to enter Macon, Ga., they were met by a leading citizen who informed them that General Lee had surrendered, the war was over and that President Lincoln had been assassinated. Mr. Taylor related in later years that the good news of the war's end was overshadowed by the shocking word of the president's death and there was no rejoicing. He was honorably discharged in 1865 and returned to Jefferson County.

Operated Hotel

He engaged in farming and later operated a hotel at Glasgow. It was a busy place in the days of horses and buggies and he kept a stable for his hotel patrons.

He was united in marriage to Clara Strong in 1867. She died about 20 years ago.

Mrs. Taylor's brother, George Strong, was the first man to enlist in the Civil War from Jefferson County, and he was also the first Union soldier from that county to die in action. The Fairfield post of the G. A. R. which Mr. Taylor headed for many years, was named after Mr. Strong. With Mr. Taylor's death, the Fairfield post, the last remaining G. A. R. post in the state, passes into history.

Survivors

Five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Taylor. They were Mrs. J. E. (Jennie) Grant of near Fairfield, Hattie Maude, who died as a young girl, Mrs. D. R. (Julia) Black of Newton, Jessie Mae Taylor, Mrs. Ralph (Bernice) Billingsley and Clifford Taylor of

Marshalltown. Only Mrs. Grant and Mrs. Black survive.

In addition, nine grandchildren survive. They include Milford McClain of Fremont, Neb., Mrs. T. D. Davis of Fort Worth, Texas, Don Taylor, Marjorie and Beverly of Marshalltown; Mrs. Hazel Hughes, Glenn Grant and Ray Grant of Fairfield, Ia., and Elliott Billingsley, serving in the U. S. army. There are several great grandchildren.

Voted For Lincoln

Mr. Taylor was active in many affairs throughout his long and fruitful and busy life. He early took an interest in government and politics and cast his first ballot for Abraham Lincoln when Mr. Lincoln ran for president the second time. While he was under 21 at the time, he was able to vote by reason of an order permitting men serving in the army to vote regardless of age. He continued a Republican throughout his life and he rarely failed to exercise his right of franchise, often making a special trip to Fairfield, Ia. his old home, to cast his ballot.

He was active in G. A. R. circles and always attended the state encampments. He attended several national encampments. This year was the first time he had missed a state encampment for many years. The encampment is in session this week in Fort Dodge, Ia.

He also was a regular attendee at Memorial Day services and he observed this year when it was impossible for him to participate in the Memorial Day events a week ago that it was the first such day he had missed in 60 years.