

August 29, 1911

DAVID H. HATTON

Like a child falling asleep and with a longing for the rest beyond the vale, David Hatton, veteran, pioneer and ever loyal Grotonite, closed his eyes on the scenes of earth at 11:00 o'clock last Saturday morning at the home of his brother, John T., with whose family he had made his home for forty-one years.

Deceased was a native of England, born at Macclesford on Nov. 26, 1839, hence would have been seventy-two years of age at his next birthday. When ten years of age, the family moved to America, locating in Wisconsin. While there he was a typesetter in the office of the Milwaukee Sentinel. Moving to Fox Lake, he continued to follow the trade of printer, until the call to arms in 1861.

On July 18th of that year he enlisted for three years—or during the war—in Co. D, 8th Wisconsin volunteer infantry—the “Eagle Regiment,” famed in history and story for possessing the eagle “Old Abe,” which bird was in evidence on many a sanguinary field.

Re-enlisted, a veteran, on Jan. 4, 1864, serving to the close of the war, receiving his discharge on August 18, 1865.

Following the close of the war he was associated with his brother John in business in Iowa and in farming enterprises in South Dakota until his health failed, being among the very early pioneers to establish a home in Hanson Township, and as noted before, for more than half of the span of his life, his brother's family was his home. For many years he had been a sufferer at times with asthma. For a number of years he found the baths and pine-laden atmosphere of Hot Springs, this state, very beneficial. In fact his visits there seemed to renew his strength and vigor in a wondrous way. But last spring he returned an invalid. Thinking that an operation might prove of benefit, he went to a hospital at Minneapolis, where he spent a number of weeks. But receiving no benefit and steadily growing weaker, a longing to return to his Groton home was gratified, and he was indeed glad to be back among familiar scenes and faces as the lamp of life burned low.

When finally convinced that death was near, he met the inevitable with calm assurance, with longing rather than with dread.

He was one of the first members of Leavitt Post, G. A. R., and was an ex-commander as well as having held other offices of the post.

Funeral services will begin at the home this afternoon at 1:30; at 2:00 at the M. E. church, of which organization he was a member.

A good citizen has gone. Another little mound appears in Groton cemetery to be decorated on each succeeding Memorial Day, and the memory of a most deserving comrade, brother and friend, will be kept green through all the coming years.