

June 2, 1927

GEORGE DICKENS, G.A.R. VET., DEAD

D COMES AFTER ILLNESS OF FEW WEEKS—GIVEN MILI- TARY FUNERAL

George W. Dickens, Civil War veteran and pioneer of Brown county, joined the silent hosts of the nation's immortals. He died peacefully and quietly last Thursday night about 10 o'clock, following an attack of influenza, which, for a time threatened to develop into pneumonia. But the old gentleman's vitality, dulled by the weight of four score and eleven years, was not sufficient to withstand a continued or prolonged illness, and he passed into the arms of the dead—beloved in life as he was in life.

Veteran of Civil War.

Mr. Dickens was a veteran of the Civil War and is one of the last of the nation's defenders of '61-'65. He was accorded full military honors in burial on the day set aside for remembering nation as a time of homage and devotion to departed heroes.

Decorated on Decoration Day in Groton this year, he had a tender and deeper current of love and esteem for old comrades, as the pomp and ceremony of military courtesy was centered about his funeral bier by a younger generation left to carry on its obligation to the nation's

heroes of those stirring days of the Civil war, and his participation therein, his casket was draped with the flag of his country, an honor reserved only on those who have earned it in times past. It was borne to the church on a caisson accompanied by an armed guard of honor, flanked by pall bearers in the khaki of 1918. The colors of the American Legion and the G. A. R. led the way to the remains behind.

Funeral Services

Funeral services were held for the body, three churches represented by the four ministers participating. Rev. Harrold, of Groton, Revs. Ray, Fridley and of Groton, said the last said with Rev. Harrold delivering the funeral oration.

A parade of sorrow from the church to the cemetery. Outside the band was waiting and as the caisson emerged from the church, the strains of a funeral march accompanied the remains as they passed. A line of honor formed by the Colors and a guard of honor to the waiting

carriage at the edge of the cemetery. The casket was placed on the caisson, and Legion pall bearers flanked either side. An arm and leg fell in behind the casket with the Colors, color guards and a band playing the strains of a funeral march preceding it, the caisson started its sad trek to the cemetery, followed by a line of mourners said to be a half or three-quarters of a mile long.

Services At The Cemetery

Special army ceremonies were held at the grave of the veteran. As the bier was placed above ground, the color guards came to attention and the firing squad saluted the dead. Sharp orders issued from the lips of the executive in charge and the guns boomed out in their final salute to a brave veteran. "Taps" ended the services.

His War Record

Mr. Dickens enlisted in the Union Army in Company A, 18th Iowa Infantry on June 11, 1862, but his service was later transferred to the 1st Iowa, with which regiment he served until June 10th, 1865, when his regiment was mustered out of service. He took part in several engagements of the Civil War, including the siege of Vicksburg, Miss., and Jackson, Miss., and engagements at Port Gibson, Union Hill and Black River.

Native of Ohio

The deceased was a native of Ohio, having been born in Canguaga, Ohio on April 1, 1836. When a

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in youth, Mr. Dickens removed to Iowa. There he enlisted in the army and served until the close of the war, returning to St. Ansger, at which place he was united in marriage to Miss Eliza Horner. In the year of 1882 he and his family came to South Dakota, being among the early pioneers of this section, and settled on a homestead near Groton, where they resided until 1913, when they came to town, having made their home here since that time.

Those of the near relatives who survive him are two daughters, Mrs. Dora Smith, of Groton, Mrs. Jake Herold, of Aberdeen. Also three grandchildren, Mrs. Herman Kuhrt, of Doland, Mrs. Deno Erdmann, of Ferny and Roy Herold, of Aberdeen. These together with six great-grandchildren and a host of friends are left to mourn his loss.