

Collins Gazette d. 9-8-1914 9-17-1914

Francis Bence was born in New York, June 10, 1841. He died at Rochester, Minn., Sept. 8, 1914, aged 73 years, 2 months, and 28 days.

When but a child he moved with his parents from New York to Waukesha Co., Wis. August 15, 1862, he enlisted in the service of his country and was honorably discharged August 23, 1865, spending three years in the service.

At the close of the war he moved to Black Hawk Co., Iowa, and later he moved to Grundy Co. where he was married to Mary Ann Cunningham on March 6, 1868. To this union six children were born: Elmer, Nellie Crouch, Nettie Kimberley, all of Collins; Lily, who died in infancy; Lester of Bondurant, and Frank of Collins.

Mr. Bence's illness was ulcers of the stomach. He died before the time of the operation. The immediate cause of death was acute dilation of the heart.

Among the relatives from a distance at the funeral were the brothers of deceased, Lewis and Wm. Bence of State Center; Robt. Cunningham of Thompson, Iowa, brother of Mrs. Bence; Mrs. Gormley of Bondurant; Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Hagerdorn, Mrs. George Yeager and Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Woolhard of State Center.

Mr. Bence was a kind husband, a loving father and a faithful friend. He was strictly honest in all his dealings and as a neighbor was obliging and willing to help in times of sickness or trouble.

He leaves to mourn their loss, a wife, five children, four grandchildren, five brothers, two sisters and a host of friends.

The above obituary was read by the presiding minister, Rev. Elliott at the funeral service, which was held at the home last Thursday afternoon. A large number of old neighbors and friends were present to mark their esteem and honor for the departed veteran, citizen and friend, and give their sympathy to the bereaved wife and children. The choir sang beautiful hymns. Rev. Elliott's sermon was comforting to the sorrowing family, and was eulogistic of a well-spent life of patriotism, probity and industry.

The interment was at the Evergreen Cemetery. The pallbearers were J. E. Dickson, E. W. Shearer, Frank Ball, A. F. Tilton, John Halterman and Chas. Dodd.