

Gardner, William S. d. 12-26-1940

William Sylvester Gardner, son of David and Betsy Ann Gardner, was born near Indianapolis, Ind., Sept. 18, 1851, and died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Charley Swalwell, near Maxwell, Ia., Dec. 26, 1940, at the age of 89 years, 3 months and 9 days.

He came with his parents from Indiana in 1863 and settled in northwest Jasper county. On May 28, 1874, he was united in marriage to Elizabeth Anne Tomlinson. To this union eight children were born of whom two daughters and three sons survive. Two boys and one girl died in childhood. Mrs. Gardner died 16 years ago, being buried on New Year's day.

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Mr. Gardner was a member of the Brethren church and also of the Three Quarter Century club of the Newton Daily News and Jasper County Record.

In early days he purchased the farm which is now occupied by his son Everett and with whom he made his home. On this land he cleared the timber and built a log cabin which was their home for a number of years. All but three of the children were born in this cabin. The farm became well known throughout this section of the state because of the sorghum factory which Mr. Gardner conducted for many years. When advancing age prevented active participation in the work he maintained a keen interest in the mill which his son operates. The Maxwell community has always been his home with the exception of a short time spent on a farm near Rhodes and of two years which were spent in North Dakota for his wife's health.

Mr. Gardner was a quiet, unassuming man, yet possessed qualities of integrity and fine character that were appreciated by all who knew him. In his business dealings he had an enviable reputation for honesty and fair dealing. He was sociable and congenial in his friendships and greatly beloved by all with whom he came in contact.

He is survived by two daughters, Mrs. May Maxwell of Amboy, Minn.; Mrs. Eva Swalwell of Maxwell, and three sons, Stephen of Cogswell, N. D.; John of San Haven, N. D., and Everett of Maxwell. Also surviving are a sister, Mrs. Wm. Gorden of Pawnee City, Neb., and two brothers, Edward of Des Moines and James of Maxwell. Twenty-seven grandchildren, 27 great grandchildren and one great great granddaughter, besides a host of relatives and friends mourn the loss of a loved one and a true friend.

Funeral services were conducted by the Rev. Mr. Quackenbush of Maxwell at 2 p. m. Monday at Peoria, with interment in Peoria Cemetery.