

Vasey, William

d. 1931

10-09-1931

Vasey, William

1931

Ames Milepost

WILLIAM VASEY 1931

William Vasey, 86, one of the pioneer farmers and stockmen of the Collins neighborhood, died at his home, October 9, after an illness of a year. Dropsy and other complications was the cause of his death. Mr. Vasey was a native of Yorkshire, England, where he was born April 15, 1845, a son of Richard and Rachel Vasey. He was a lad of 16 years when the family came to America and settled first at Jacksonville, Illinois. A few years later they came out to Iowa and settled near the inland town of Peoria, in northeastern Polk county.

The survivors are the daughter Ethel, who had remained at home and cared for the father; John of Austin, Minnesota, and Charles, Arthur, Jesse, Raleigh, Mrs. Alma Harsh and Mrs. Cora Hand, all of Collins or nearby. He also leaves 27 grandchildren and two brothers. The brothers, both of whom live in Collins, are Joshua and George Vasey.

For the past several years he would be found reading the Bible, as it was always near him. His great motto was "Do Unto Others As You Would Have Them Do Unto You."

He was considered one of the most industrious and prosperous farmers and stockmen in the country, and his advice was often sought.

It is a great consolation to know that no man ever had more friends during his lifetime.

The community truly mourns the passing of another real pioneer. William Vasey, whose death occurred at his home south of Collins last Friday evening at 9 o'clock, after an illness of a year. Death resulted from dropsy and other complications.

The bereaved family has the sincere sympathy of all in their time of sorrow—and all mourn the passing of this fine old gentleman.

Funeral services were held Monday at 2 o'clock from the Collins Church of Christ, in charge of the Rev. John Adamson, pastor of the Collins M. E. church.

Musical selections were "The Old Rugged Cross," "Beautiful Garden of Prayer," and "Sometime We'll Understand," which were beautifully given by a quartet composed of the Misses Mary Holmes and Zola Gilley and Messrs. Thos. Huntrod and C. O. Shearer, accompanied at the piano by Miss Jessie Huntrod.

Uffbearers were Amos Hanson, Dennis Dodd, Curt Campbell, B. L. Mead, Alva Pritchard and Philip Ozmun. Interment was in Collins Evergreen cemetery.

William Vasey, the oldest son of Richard and Rebecca Anderson Vasey was born in Yorkshire, England, on the 12th day of April 1815, and departed this life on October 9, 1931, at his home south of Collins, being 86 years, 5 months and 27 days old.

At the age of 16 he immigrated to America with his parents, brothers and sisters, settling in Franklin county, Ill. There he worked as a farm hand for a few years, then starting farming and stock feeding for himself.

In 1868 he came to Iowa in company with Thos. Swailwell, who is still living, and these men have been steadfast friends all these years. Mr. Vasey purchased a farm at Peoria, Ia., where he lived a few years, then purchased the farm now occupied by Mrs. Thos. Duesbury. About 45 years ago he purchased the farm where he lived the remainder of his days.

He was married to Ana Oxley on the first day of December, 1869, and to this union were born 10 children, seven sons and three daughters. Two of the sons, H. R. Vasey and C. W. Vasey preceded him in death a few years ago. He leaves the following children to mourn his death: J. W. Vasey of Austin, Minn.; C. G. Vasey, A. A. Vasey, R. J. Vasey, Jesse Vasey, Alma Harsh, Clara Hand, all of Collins, Ia., and Miss Ethel Vasey, who has kept house for her father for many years.

The mother passed away Aug. 1, 1896.

Besides his children he leaves to mourn two brothers, George Vasey and Joseph Vasey of Collins, his grandchildren and many other relatives, and a host of friends and associates.

He was baptized in the Church of England when a child and has always been a student of the Bible and was well versed in the Scriptures.

Collins
Gazette 10-15-1931

WILLIAM VASEY.

Beginning as a farm hand, William Vasey, of Collins township, by energy, enterprise and sound business judgment has become one of the wealthy citizens of Story county. He was born in Yorkshire, England, April 22, 1849, son of Richard and Rebecca (Anderson) Vasey, both of whom were also natives of Yorkshire. In 1861 the family emigrated to this country and the father engaged in farming in Jacksonville, Illinois, until 1887, when he removed to Story county, Iowa. Several of his sons had preceded him to this county and were greatly pleased with the outlook as to its agricultural possibilities. Shortly after his arrival the father purchased eighty acres across the line in Jasper county, where he resided

until his death, which occurred in 1898, having then arrived at the age of seventy-eight years. The mother departed this life seven years later. They were prominent members of the Baptist church and were highly esteemed by all who knew them.

William Vasey came to the United States with his parents in his thirteenth year, and from the time of his arrival in this country was able to do a man's work behind the plow. However, he attended the district schools and received the foundation of an education, which he has greatly broadened by observation and reading during the years that have since elapsed. He came to Story county in 1868 and began work as a farm hand, showing an interest in his work which gave bright promise as to his future. At the age of twenty-three he was married and soon afterward removed to Peoria, Polk county, Iowa, where he had purchased eighty acres of land adjoining the limits of Peoria but located in Story county.

Allen's History
of Story Co.
pages 463-64-65

(OVER)

Mr. Vasey is not identified with any religious denomination but he is a stanch believer in Christianity and is a liberal contributor to church and charitable purposes. Politically he prefers to be independent, voting for the man rather than for the party. He has few superiors in lines of agriculture and stock-raising, to which he has devoted the best energies of his

life, and it is doubtful whether any man in his locality is a better judge of the productive capability or the value of land. Without aid from others, depending upon his own strong arms and an unalterable determination to win, he forged his way to an independent position financially and is now accorded the respect that rightfully belongs to one who has fought and won in the great battle of life.

He lived in the town and cultivated the farm for two years and then purchased a farm in Jasper county near the lines of Polk and Story counties, upon which he took up his residence. He managed this place with such ability that in 1887 he was able to purchase three hundred and twenty acres in Collins township, Story county, which he has since made his home. He has been remarkably successful and now owns seven hundred and fifty acres, three hundred and twenty of which are located in Eden township, Marshall county, six miles east of his home farm. He has dealt extensively in cattle, which he has fed upon a large scale and has also been unusually successful in handling farm lands. He is still actively engaged in business and his judgment is regarded by his neighbors and friends as conclusive on subjects pertaining to agriculture and live stock.

In the spring of 1872 Mr. Vasey was united in marriage to Miss Ana Oxley, a native of England, and daughter of John Oxley, who after coming to this country lived in Maryland and Illinois and about 1866 located in Story county, Iowa. To Mr. and Mrs. Vasey ten children have been born, namely: John, a farmer of Collins township; Charles, a member of the firm of Vasey Brothers, lumber dealers of Collins; Henry, a practicing attorney of Nevada, Iowa; Jesse, of Los Angeles, California; Raleigh and Chauncy, at home; Arthur, a member of the firm of Vasey Brothers of Collins; Alma, wife of Euclid H. Harsh, a farmer of Jasper county; Clara, now Mrs. Arthur Hands, of Collins; and Ethel, at home. Mr. Vasey was called upon to meet the greatest sorrow of his life in the death of his beloved companion in August, 1896. She was a member of the Methodist church and possessed many estimable qualities of mind and heart that greatly endeared her to all with whom she was associated.