

DECATUR, DIES

Came to Decatur With Father the "Year of the Big Snow"

HE KNEW LINCOLN

John Cassell, aged 88, oldest man in Decatur, died Thursday morning at 9:15 o'clock in the home of his daughter, Mrs. J. T. Lineham, 528 West North street. His death was due to the infirmity of age, but probably hastened by the shock of a fall in his home about six weeks ago. He did not suffer from the fall more than the shock. After that accident he was confined to his bed but remained fully conscious until Monday, after which time there were only occasional moments of consciousness.

John Cassell was born Oct. 26, 1828, in Harrisburg, Pa. His father, William Cassell, brought his family to Illinois in 1839. Their first stop in Illinois was in Decatur, because they were snowbound, the plan having been to go further north in the state. Often recounting his coming to Decatur he told that the family, traveling in covered wagons, camped in what now is Lincoln square. Food supplies being short, one of them went into the hazel brush where Wood street now is a line of travel and shot eight prairie chickens.

Worked Canal Boats

While he had always considered Macon county his home after his arrival here, there was a period during the first years of his life in the prairie state that he made his headquarters near Chicago, because there it was possible to get employment and he worked along the river on canal boats.

During his life in Illinois he made his home in Monticello and later in Niantic. Prior to the war of states he lived in Monticello, where he was a justice of the peace and in his court Abraham Lincoln transacted business. Later for many years Mr. Cassell was a justice of the peace in Niantic.

Was Civil War Veteran

He served with the 107th Ill. Vols. from 1862 to the close of the war. During the last years of his life nothing interested him more than a soldier's reunion or the marching of soldiers of the younger generations and he was in an auto and down town last November to see the Armistice day celebration. Up to the last few weeks ago, when weather was pleasant he could and did get out of doors for short walks. He wore glasses only when he tried to read but admitted that when he began to read he was unable to concentrate his mind, could not follow the subject. There was no such difficulty when he entered into conversation but said that he noticed that events of the long ago seemed more clear in his mind than more recent happenings which he thought he should remember more clearly.

He was married Nov. 5, 1847 to Harriet Wyckoff; her death occurred Nov. 30, 1882. His second marriage was to Mary Jane Pettus April 29, 1866; her death occurred April 26, 1912. He leaves five children: Mrs. Ella Danley, and J. Frank Cassell of Chicago; Mrs. ~~Andrews~~ Andrews of Sanderson, Texas; C. H. Cassell and Mrs. J. T. Lineham of Decatur.

The body was taken to the undertaking rooms of Dawson & Wilkoff. The funeral will be held in the chapel at 2:30 Sunday afternoon.

Monday, October 17, 1927.

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50 Years Ago Today

(As Told by The Daily Republican)
James A. Barney arrived home from Boston today in feeble health.

Mrs. John Cassell returned last night from a visit to her mother in Putnam county.

D. S. Shellabarger has purchased from D. W. Brenneman the lot on the southeast corner of Franklin and Eldorado streets. J. W. Race purchased from George W. Baker the lot on the northwest corner of West Main and Edward streets.