

DEATH OF J.B.STUTSMAN

PIONEER OF WESTERN IOWA GONE

MERCHANT IN EARLY DAYS OF THIS STATE

The death of Mr. J.B.Stutsman, resident of this city for nearly half a century, occurred suddenly at the family home, South Seventh Street, yesterday morning at an early hour. Death was due primarily to weakness caused by the infirmities of age.

Mr. Stutsman was born in Dayton, Ohio, December 27, 1819. At the age of twenty he came to St. Joseph, Missouri in 1841., and seven years later moved up the Missouri River to Florence, Nebraska; shortly after, in June of the same year, to Council Bluffs, then Kanessville. That was in 1848, at which time he entered the mercantile business. It was in this year that the Mormons, under Brigham Young passed through Kanessville on their way to Utah. He sold them large bills of goods on time and he told the writer on reviewing the events of his early life, that only a small part of those debts was unpaid. He was held in high regard by the members of that religious body.

For seven years he followed placer gold mining on White River, Oregon, 15 0 miles below Boise City. At this work he cleaned up \$13,000.

He remained in the mercantile business in Kanessville for 10 years and came to Harlan about 1872, where he had a general store for years. The Stutsman block was built on the site of his earlier labors and stands a monument to his enterprise.

During the active years of his life he took great interest in Democratic politics. After the election of Grover Cleveland to the Presidency in 1884, he was appointed Postmaster of this city, a position he held for 4 years, returning to mercantile life at the close of his term. It was not until age had snapped his physical strength that he retired from business.

Personally, Mr. Stutsman was a man of very genial character. His quiet, unassuming way of meeting people entrenched him in their esteem, and during the years in which he was able to meet his friends regularly, no one had a larger circle of acquaintances in this locality.

Deceased was a true type of the class of pioneers whose rugged character and patient foresight developed the West into its present importance. He left Ohio on a boat down the Ohio River to St. Louis and reached the western border of Iowa by the same means on the Missouri River. He passed through all the stages of roughing it and his experiences would make an entertaining volume. With faith in the new country, he lived to see it do honor to his judgment.

Mr. Stutsman was married in 1849 at St. Joseph, Missouri, to Miss Sarah Sargeant. Eight children were born to them but only three grew to ~~maturity~~ adult age. The surviving member is Mrs. Mary Stutsman-Allen who has been her father's companion for a number of years.

Funeral services will be held tomorrow afternoon at 2 at the Congregational Church conducted by Rev. F.W.Keagy and Rev. George Rice, Council Bluffs, an intimate family friend and pastor of the first Congregational Society in that city.