

In Memoriam

JAMES W. HOPKINS

James W. Hopkins, son of Mr. and Mrs. S. R. Hopkins, was born at Romeo, Michigan, Dec. 17, 1831, and departed this life at Whiting, Iowa, Feb. 23, 1915, being aged 80 years, 2 months and 6 days.

When about a year and a half old, the deceased's parents moved from their Michigan home and removed to Wisconsin, the father receiving from the government a patent for 40 acres of land which now lies in the heart of the great city of Milwaukee, then but a frontier town of a few log cabins, a trading post, and having a small lake wharf. Here the deceased was reared to manhood.

October 22, 1856, Mr. Hopkins was united in marriage to Jane Jones, but she departed this life on May 11, 1857. He was married to Lucia A. Bigelow October 17, 1858, at Eagle, Wis., and this union was broken by the death of the wife and mother, on Jan. 3, 1912, their married life having lasted for more than a half-century. Mr. and Mrs. Hopkins are the parents of nine children, eight of whom yet survive.

Soon after their marriage, Mr.

and Mrs. Hopkins removed from Eagle and settled at Dale, Outagamie county, Wis. Here they commenced the life of the sturdy pioneers of those days, cleared eighty acres of land and erected a log cabin. This log house served as their home for eighteen years, and eight of their nine children were born in this house. Wade, the youngest son and child, being born in the brick house which replaced the log house in 1876.

On Feb. 18, 1866, the husband and father answered the call of his country and enlisted in Co. D of the 49th Wis. Infantry and served for ten months, being honorably discharged at the close of the War. During those ten months, the wife and mother remained in the log cabin with her four children, the oldest not being six years old, and cared for her little flock; yet death came and took a little girl from the home, being the only death that had broken the family circle until the death of the parents.

Mr. and Mrs. Hopkins resided on the same farm near Dale, Wis. until 1886 when they sold the old place and sought the Golden West, taking their family with them. They located in Chase county, Nebraska and homesteaded 160 acres of land. Soon after locating there, Mr. Hopkins opened a cross roads store and was appointed by Grover Cleveland as postmaster, the postoffice, the cross roads and the store being called Winchester; this was the only store within forty miles and a flourishing business was done for

six years when the store was sold. In 1903, Mr. and Mrs. Hopkins and their youngest son Wade left their Nebraska home and came to Whiting, buying the little home in East Whiting, where the wife and mother died Jan. 3, 1912. About thirty-three years ago, while still in their Wisconsin home, both Mr. and Mrs. Hopkins confessed their faith in Christ as their saviour and united with the Baptist church at that place, and both lived pure simple christian lives until their lives were ended.

Mr. Hopkins is survived by eight children, twenty-two grandchildren, one great grandson, one

Fond du Lac, Wis., Elmer E. of Whiting, Iowa, Ferrand W. of Venango, Nebr., Ella J. who died in infancy, Nellie E. Clemmons of Fond du Lac, Wis., Carrie M. Watkins, Neligh, Nebr., Paul J. of Brock, Nebr., Frank H. of Venango, Nebr., and H. Wede of this place. Mrs. Jane Crouch of Appleton, Wis., and Russell Hopkins of Antigo, Wis., are the surviving sister and brother.

All the children with the exception of Arthur and Mrs. Clemmons of Fond du Lac, were present for the funeral services, Mrs. Watkins arriving the day before death came.

Mr. Hopkins was a man of high ideals and a splendid citizen, and was held in the highest esteem by all who knew him wherever he lived. Until death took his wife and companion, three years ago, his life was one of happiness and contentment, but the grief over her death, overweighed his natural sunny disposition, and his health began to fail rapidly. His grief was deepened by the fact that the later years of his life, he was very deaf which robbed him, in a large measure of companionships that would have been a great boon to him. His health failed rapidly this winter, and death came to him peacefully and quietly.

Funeral services were conducted from the Congregational church, Friday afternoon, Feb. 26, at two o'clock, being in charge of Rev. G. H. Croker who also had charge of the services for Mrs. Hopkins. Rev. Croker was assisted by Rev. W. H. Kent, pastor of the church, and a quartet composed of Miss Chloe Rains, Miss Mabel McBeath, W. G. Brown and A. M. Patterson, with Miss Jean Watkins at the organ. Singing "My Faith Looks Up To Thee," and "Abide With Me." The scripture lesson and prayer were by Rev. Kent, and Rev. Croker chose as his text Job 5:26 - "Thou shalt come to thy grave in prime, old age, as a shock of corn witheth in its season. Following the services at the church, the remains were borne to the Whiting Cemetery where interment was made beside those of his wife. The pall bearers were the sons Elmer E., Ferrand W., Paul J.,

*Taken from the Whiting Argus
Whiting, Iowa
March 4, 1915*