

THEODORE FRANKLIN
RHOADS

Last Saturday afternoon, March 8th, at 2:00 p. m. a large company of people gathered at the Eagle M. E. church to pay their last tribute of respect to one who has long lived in our midst. Theodore Franklin Rhoads was born near Buckstown, in Shade township, Somerset county, Pennsylvania, June 16, 1869, where the first three years of his life were spent. His family then moved to Wooster, Ohio, where he remained until March, 1890, when he came to Wisconsin.

Five years later he married Mertie Eugenia Parsons and they established their home on the farm known as the Parsons' homestead just a short distance from the village of Eagle. Later they moved to Eagle but no matter where the home, there was always the same welcome for friends or for the friendless. It may well be said of him, "He lived in a house by the side of the road to be a friend to man." Theodore, as we all called him, possessed a splendid bass voice and he gave unstintingly of it to the people of Eagle. His memory will ever be associated with music.

He was a member of Robert Morris Masonic lodge of Eagle for many years. Also the chapter of Whitewater and Fort Atkinson council which attended the funeral in a body.

Three daughters were born to the Rhoads' home, Erla, Arlene and Eveline who died in infancy.

Mr. Rhoads lived in this vicinity for nearly forty years. During his last illness he went to live with his daughter, Erla, Mrs. Dexter Eadinger, of Waukesha, who with her sister, Mrs. Harold Matteson, gave him all the loving care possible. Many Eagle friends visited him during his last illness thinking to cheer him but instead came away cheered themselves by the fortitude with which he met pain and discomfort. On March 4th he passed into the great beyond leaving an aged mother; a brother, George, of Waukesha; a sister, Mrs. P. S. Hamerick, of California; and his two daughters, previously mentioned, besides a host of friends and neighbors, who will miss him sorely. He needs no eulogy. His life speaks for itself.

The funeral services were held at the M. E. church, conducted by Rev. Perry, of Milwaukee, Rev. Petherick and the Robert Morris lodge of Eagle. Mr. Probert, of Dousman, sang very effectively, "Face to Face" and "Abide With Me." The impressive Masonic ceremony was conducted at Oak Ridge cemetery where interment took place in the family vault. The large number who attended the services gave evidence of the feeling which this community has for him.