

FINAL TAPS FOR "UNCLE JOHN" WRIGHT

**NASHUA'S OLDEST RESIDENT
IS CALLED BY DEATH**

**Ninety-eight Year Old Civil War
Veteran Died Thursday—
Funeral Held Monday**

John G. Wright, known to his many friends as "Uncle John," died at 10 p. m., Thursday, June 25, at the home of his son, Fred Wright south of Nashua. He made his home with his son, Frank, in Nashua, but had gone a couple of days previous to visit Fred and wife.

"Uncle John" was Nashua's oldest resident, having celebrated his 98th birthday the 20th of May. He was a veteran of the Civil War, and one of the two remaining members of the Geo. W. S. Dodge post of the Grand Army of the Republic. His death leaves Joseph Watts of near Ionia the only surviving member of the post.

His death was due to the infirmities incident with old age. However, he had remained alert in body and mind throughout the closing years of his long life.

He was able to be present at the Memorial Day services at the Nashua cemeteries this year; and on May 17th he enjoyed a reunion of his children and grandchildren on his 98th birthday.

"Uncle John" was born in England, May 20th, 1838. He came to America in 1850, and to this community 82 years ago.

He farmed southeast of Nashua for many years, and lived in this community ever since he came here in 1854, except while he was a member of the 33th Iowa Volunteers of the Grand Army, and for a period of three years spent near Vinton, and three years at the Soldiers' Home at Marshalltown. For the past 18 years, except for the time he was at the Soldiers' home, he made his home with his son, Frank and wife.

Mr. Wright was married to Mary C. Huyler, at Waverly, on Nov. 19, 1863. She preceded him in death in 1915.

When "Uncle John" came to this community the town of Nashua had not even been started. Bradford was the county seat and Chickasaw's leading city, and the Little Brown Church had not yet been built.

This locality was a regular hunter's paradise in those days. He could recall having seen herds of as many as fifty deer crossing the Little Cedar river at Chickasaw. Buffalo were quite numerous, and the howl of wolves was as common as the crow of the pheasant is today.

"Uncle John" witnessed a vast change in the mode of transportation during his lifetime. When he crossed the Atlantic in 1850, it took eight weeks and two days to make the 2,000-mile trip. Airplanes have made the same course in recent years in just a little over a half day.

He did teaming in this community for a number of years, between Bradford and McGregor, usually taking five days to make the trip. Now a man with a truck can haul a much larger load, and make it in a few hours.

The Battle of Vicksburg was the most important battle in which he participated during the Civil War. He recalled that the Confederates drove the Union soldiers back three times, and on the last charge the men in Blue had to advance over the dead bodies of their comrades for more than a quarter of a mile.



"UNCLE JOHN" WRIGHT

Seven of Mr. Wright's eleven children survive him: Fred, Frank and Dick Wright and Mrs. Harry Swinton, all of Nashua; Robert Wright of Livingston, Mont.; Walter Wright, Miles City, Mont., and Jack Wright, Pontiac, Mich. Those who preceded him in death were John G., Jr., Jennie, George and Arthur T. He is also survived by 43 grandchildren and 19 great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at the Methodist church at 3 p. m., Monday, Rev. G. C. Lusted, of Dysart, former pastor here, officiating. Music was provided by a quartet consisting of August Meier, Mrs. Herb Prudhon, Miss Margaret Taylor and Robert Morris, with Mrs. E. W. Staley accompanying at the piano.

Joseph Watts of near Ionia, the last surviving member of the Geo. W. Dodge Post, G. A. R., was present for the services. The Women's Relief Corps, American Legion and Boy Scouts attended in bodies.

Military burial rites were held at Greenwood cemetery, the American Legion Firing Squad giving the salute and Scout Bugler John Emmons sounding taps. The six surviving sons of the deceased acted as casketbearers.

The casket was draped in the burial flag of the Geo. W. S. Dodge post, G. A. R., which had been used for funerals of all former members, and the flag was buried with the casket. This was done after it was found there were two burial flags in the post's possession, it having been planned to keep the flag to bury with the last member of the post. It is expected the marching flag of the post will also be buried with Joseph Watts, as his death will mark the dissolution of the G. A. R. post here.

Out-of-town relatives who attended the funeral, besides the sons living at distant places were: Mrs. A. T. Wright of Omaha; Kyle Wright and wife and

Mrs. Ernest Springer of Cedar Rapids; Mr. and Mrs. Garth Butler, Greene; Dorothy Wright, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Arlie Billings and Ruby Cagley, Waterloo; Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Spear of New Hampton.

The Nashua business houses were closed during the hour of the funeral, out of respect to the town's oldest citizen, and flags were displayed on Main Street in memory of his service in the Civil War.