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Sources Log For Legislation Entries

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Northwood

Volume 32

HON. GEORGE F. WATSON

One of Worth County's Pioneer Settlers Brave Soldier, Good Citizen

ANSWERED THE LAST ROLL CALL ON APRIL 3RD.

Northwood Business Man, Sheriff, Mayor Postmaster, Representative

In the Early Days.

Hon. George F. Watson, a leading citizen of Northwood and Worth county in the early days, died on Thursday last, April 3rd, at the home of his son Postmaster Chas. G. Watson, El Reno, Oklahoma. He was born in Adrian, Mich., August 19, 1843, his parents being Charles R. and Jane (Mathews) Watson, nativesof Philadelphia, but pioneer settlers of Winneshiek county, Iowa. In May of 1861, Mr. Watson, then a sturdy youth of 17 years, gladly gave up a position on an Iowa farm and enlisted in the Fifth Iowa Infantry, with which he served with distinction, participating in the engagements at New Madrid, Corinth, Iuka, siege and capture of Vicksburg, Champion Hill, Black River, etc. Having received an honorable discharge in August, 1864, he re-enlisted the following month in the Fifth Iowa Cavalry, with which crack regiment he saw great service at Spring Hill, Franklin, Nashville, Duck River, and the pursuit of Hood's scattered army across Tennessee into Alabama, contending with such dare-devil Confederate cavalry leaders as Gens. Wheeler and Forest. (For this account of his stirring war record and other phases of his eventful career we are indebted to the History of Worth county and to a copy of the El Reno Daily Democrat, kindly furnished by Mrs. Mary Beckett.)

In 1865 Mr. Watson arrived in Northwood when he engaged in mercantile business. In 1866, he was united in marriage to Felixine, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Wardall, a lady of many graces of heart and character. To this union were born four sons and one daughter, all still living: Bert G., merchant at Chamberlain, S. D., Chas. G., postmaster at El Reno, Robert K. and Mrs. Carrie G. Gunn, of Great Bend, Kansas, and Kenneth E. Watson, Los Angeles. All are making good in life, a credit to their parents and the town in which they were born.

In 1868 Mr. Watson opened the pioneer drug store in Northwood. In 1873 he was elected sheriff, which office he held for three terms; in 1881 he was appointed postmaster, a position which he resigued upon being elected to the Iowa House tor The office he held for three terms; in 1881 he was appointed postmaster, a position which he resigued the interval of the interval of the interval of the interval is the flag he loved, and the G. A. R. and Masonic Emblems on his breast.

district in the fall of 1883. In regard to his legislative fecord we quote direct from the issue of El Reno Democrat above referred to:



"He served in the twentieth Iowa assembly which re-elected Allison to the United States senate, was chairman of different important committees, and was very active in the work of that session, but refused a renomination for the office. He was the author of the Iowa railroad law which compels railroads to run trains over the road where they hold a charter. The law was afterwards adopted by Wisconsin and many other states."

Besides holding the political offices and honors above referred to Mr. Watsonwas mayor of Northwood for one term and member of the council for several years, and was always prominent in Republican politics, local, state and national. He was a man who made an unusually fine appearance, and his popularity is attested by the fact that he held elective or appointive public office for much more than half his active life. He was one of the organizers of Post Rendall, G. A. R., and ranked high in Masonic circles.

During most of 1886 and '87 Mr. Watson was in the general merchandise business at Northwood in company with "Charley" Peterson, but was burned out in the fire of 1888. In the fall of '89 he went south on account of failing health, and engaged in real estate business, first at Vernon, Texas, and later at El Reno. At this point we are again obliged to quote the El Reno daily:

"Mr. Watson was appointed postmaster at El Reno in July 1897, in which capacity he served efficiently until 1904 when he was scricken with paralysis, when the active management was turned over to his son Charles G. Watson who completed his father's term, and was appointed postmaster in August, 1906." [Mr. Gharles Watson is still postmaster of that enterprising city of some four or five thousand inhabitants; the position being held by father and son for upwards of fifteen years.]

For much of the time from 1883 to his dying day Mr. Watson was a great sufferer, and during the last five years a helpless and dependent invalid; but nothing, we are told, could destroy his interest in affairs or break his indomitable will. His life for the last few years was sustained by sheer will power; the 'touch of grace'' which ended the heroic struggle must have come as a blessed relief. There were impressive funeral services at El Reno, in which the Methodist and Baptist pastors participated. At Northwood on Sunday last the Masonic brethren, rank on rank, conveyed their comrade to his last long home, in Sunset Rest. The old soldier sleeps at last beside the faithful wife of his youth; with the flag he loved, and the G. A. R. and Masonic Emblems on his breast.

A GOOD DEGRE

Strong Add Much

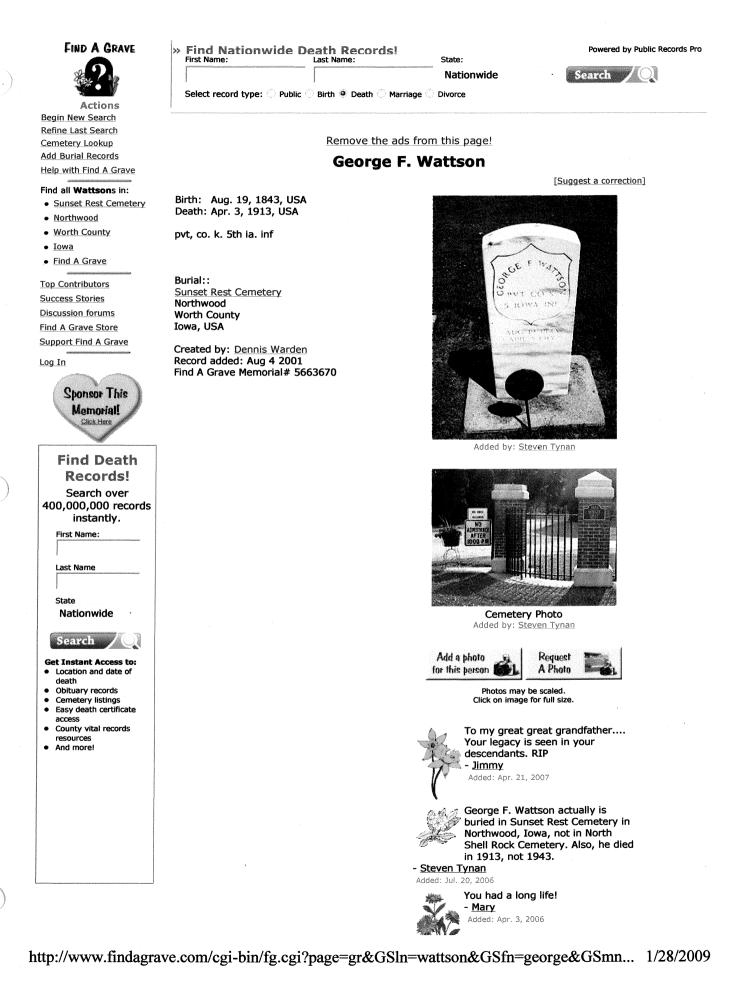
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George F. Wallson (1843 - 1913) - Find A Grave Memorial

Page 1 01 Z



Source: Iowa Territorial and State Legislators Collection compiled by volunteers and staff at the State Historical Society of Iowa Library, Des Moines, Iowa.



George F. Wattson Aug. 19, 1843 Apr. 3, 1913

Sunset Rest Cemetery Northwood, Iowa

> Added by: Steven Tynan 7/20/2006

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http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=pis&GSln=wattson&GSfn=george&GSm... 1/28/2009

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McDaniel/Scarborough/Lutman

Entries: 218446 Updated: 2008-12-03 03:28:10 UTC (Wed) Contact: R. Dale McDaniel roger dinicitaniel (a) contact

Please note: I am not a professional genealogist and my research is certainly not up to the standards to which such a genealogist would adhere. Almost all my data is a combination of other trees currently or previously on the net. I have made no effort to seek out and examine corroborating records such as birth certificates, marriage licenses, etc. I have not maintained record of the sources of my info because of the multiplicity of them. I have no further information than is in this tree for most branches

Index | Descendancy | Register | Pedigree | Ahnentafel | Download GEDCOM | Public Profile | Add Postem

- ID: I166528
- Name: George F. Wattson
- Given Name: George F.
- Surname: Wattson
- Sex: M
- Birth: 12 Aug 1843
- Death: 13 Apr 1913 in Northwood, Iowa (Worth)
- UID: 10C5E0B349564400AA318BA0254E12FED451
- Change Date: 4 Feb 2008 at 15:41

Father: Charles R. Wattson b: 10 May 1810 Mother: Jane Matthew b: 5 Jan 1815 in .Saint Athans, Wales

Marriage 1 Felexine Wardall b: 1843 in Union, Wisconsin (Rock)

- *Married*: 4 Nov 1866
- Change Date: 4 Feb 2008

Children

1. Claretta Gertrude Wattson b: 12 Feb 1870 in Northwood, Iowa (Worth)

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		Clara G Wattson	4/12	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	

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Attach this record to a person in your tree as a source record, or say for later evaluation.

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Source Citation: Year: 1870; Census Place: Northwood, Worth, Iowa; Roll: M593_427; Page: 431; Image: 202.

Source Information:

Ancestry.com. 1870 United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: The Generations Network, Inc., 2003. Original data: 1870.

• United States. *Ninth Census of the United States*, *1870*. Washington, D.C. National Archi and Records Administration. M593, RG29, 1,761 rolls.

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		Department of Iowa Grand Army of the Republic
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		Description: This database contains marriage information from various counties in the U.S. state of I from 1851-1900. Information that may be found in this database for each individual include their name, spouse's name, marriage date, and marriage county. <u>Learn more</u>
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