

Funeral Services For John W. Potter Held At Lynnville

(By a Staff Correspondent)

Lynnville, Ia., Oct. 7, Special:

John Wesley Potter passed away Oct. 2nd at his home in Cedar Rapids. He was a brother of Charles Potter of Lynnville.

John Wesley Potter was born at Millersburg, Iowa, November 4, 1870, the son of Rev. John and Andeline (Sparks) Potter. He received his early educational training in the public schools where his father held charges as one of the early pastors of the Methodist Episcopal church in Iowa, and then entered business.

On February 28th, 1894, Mr. Potter married Mattie C. Unthank, of Highland County, Ohio, and they have two sons, John Alfred Potter of Chicago, Ill., and Ralph Henry Potter, of McConnellsville, Ohio.

The greater portion of Mr. Potter's life was devoted to the mercantile business. As a boy he started as a clerk for Micholson and Burlow of Lynnville, Iowa, and later moved to New Sharon to work for the firm of Kundsén, Kramer, and Day. His next and last position was with the Iowa Mercantile Co. of Newton, Ia., where he was promoted to manager and buyer of one of the departments. By careful saving and management he bought half interest in a department store at Wilton Junction, Iowa which he operated as the firm of Strong and Potter from 1904 to 1912.

Upon selling the partnership store he entered the real estate offices of the Malcolm V. Bolton Co., Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The mercantile business proved too great an attraction for him and in 1914 he bought the Traer Mercantile Co. at Traer, Iowa which he held for nine years, at one time operating a store at Tripoli in connection.

He sold out during the post war business depression and again entered the real estate business in the offices of Tait and Wagner, life long friends and business associates of Cedar Rapids.

Mr. Potter was a man of worthy purpose, and high ideals. Scrupulous honesty with himself, and his fellow man was the master keynote of his life. Caught in a maelstrom of deflation, and treacherous business conditions in 1923 he bravely shouldered burdens which would have broken down any man of weaker moral fibre, and started life anew. It was the long hours of nerve wracking struggle and worry during the later years of his life to live up to his ideals and standards of moral obligation that broke down his health. He died as he had always lived, in services, not for himself, but for others.

Mr. Potter's life was a wordless sermon for all who knew him. He did not preach his ideals from the house-tops; he lived them, and his life was an inspiration. Disappointments, and almost unbearable burdens did not cause him to waver from his unflinching purpose, and when the Master's summons brought with it at last surcease from worry, and a lifting of earthly burdens it found him ready with clean hands, and a clean soul, a fit companion for the chosen people of God, in that house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

So fades a summer cloud away,
So sinks the gale when storms are o'er,

So gently shuts the eye of day,
So dies the wave along the shore.
Triumphant smiles the victor brow
Fanned by the angel's purple wing.
Where is, O grave! Thy victory
now?

And Where, sullen death! thy sting?

Its duty done, as sinks the day,
Light from its load the spirit flies,
While heaven and earth combine
to say

"Thy task is o'er brave soul arise."

When the Onnipotent King scans
Eternity's realms and gives crowns
to true men, John Wesley Potter will
answer as he always did at his post,
"I am here."

Funeral services were held in the Friends church in Lynnville Sunday afternoon at one o'clock, burial in Woodland cemetery. Rev. Frank Conover had charge of the funeral and was assisted by Rev. Willard Reynolds. Music by a mixed quartet composed of Mrs. Leo Davis, Mrs. Harvey Gause, Mr. Willard Reynolds and Mr. Harlan Meredith with Mrs. A. T. Gifford at the piano. Pall bearers were cousins of Mr. Potter, and were George, Milton, W. P., Ed, Perry and Will Sparks.