

Article in the Rock Rapids Review, October 27, 1906.

CALLED TO HIS REWARD  
After A Long Illness County Superintendant Grisell Dies

The saddest and greatest shock that our community has received for many a day was Monday morning when word was passed from house to house and 'phone to 'phone that County Superintendent Alonzo W. Grisell had passed away at 6 o'clock.

It was unexpected, and came with great force, and his devoted wife and daughter most keenly felt the severe shock. The immediate cause of his death was acute endocarditis, an affection [sic. infection] of the heart.

Mr. Grisell was taken sick about the first of August, shortly after the institute closed. When bidding the teachers good-by on that occasion he seemed to have a presentment that he would not be long in this world, and made the remark half in jest that it would in all probability be the last institute that he would ever preside over, and tears of sorry coursed his check for he loved his teachers as his own.

On August 28 an operation for appendicitis was performed which was very successful, and his physicians announced that it would only be a question of time until he would be able to be around. Complications set in and in his weakened condition it was more than his vitality could stand that the end came without warning.

The deceased was born in Ohio, March 13, 1852, his father being in the ministry of the Methodist church. Edward Grisell, a great grandfather, was in the revolutionary war and was captured and sentenced to be hung as a spy, but was reprieved. His grandmother was closely connected with the Penn family. His early education was received in the public schools before he was 17 years of age, when he adopted the profession of teaching. In 1874 he attended the **normal school at Lebanon, O.**,<sup>1</sup> for four years, graduating with honor.

Mr. Grisell was elected county superintendent of Sioux county in 1888 and held the position two terms, and during his terms of office vastly improved the efficiency of the schools in that county. On the expiration of his office he engaged in the hardware business in Hull. However, he returned to the school room in 1896 and was principal of the Doon schools for three years, and the impression of his good work remains today. He was selected by the republicans in 1899 for superintendent, and has been twice re-elected by increasing majorities. At the time of his demise he was a nominee of his party for re-election for a fourth term, which speaks stronger than words of the esteem in which he was held throughout the county.

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<sup>1</sup> A normal school was a school created to train high school graduates to be teachers. Its purpose was to establish teaching standards or norms, hence its name. Most such schools are now called teachers' colleges; however, in some places, the term normal school is still used. National Normal University was a teacher's college in Lebanon, Ohio [near Cincinnati, Ohio]. It opened in 1855 as Southwestern State Normal College and took the name National Normal University in 1870. Alfred Holbrook was the first president and the school's guiding force for most of its existence. The school went bankrupt in 1895 and finally closed in 1917. Its records went to Wilmington College in Wilmington, Ohio.

Mr. Grisell was married to Miss Lottie M. Yockey, April 7, 1878, and three children were the fruit of this union. Edna Mabel and Guy are buried in the Hull cemetery. Vera Inez, a daughter, survives.

A. W. Grisell was a strong and magnetic man, true as steel and firm as a rock. Intellectually he was keen and invariably his judgment sound. Loyalty to his honest convictions he regarded as one of his highest obligations to the community, to his country and to his fellow men. No one doubted his word or questioned his honesty, and at all times the people knew where to find him, and had unwavering confidence in his judgment. The value of his services while county superintendent is sufficiently attested in the high standard that now prevails in the schools throughout the county. His conduct was above reproach and his private life most edifying. He abhorred dissipation and he would not stoop to any act beneath the dignity of a Christian gentleman. He was a member of the Methodist church, and his many praiseworthy deeds will long leave an influence for good on the lives of the many who knew him so well, and who entertained such a high regard for him.

The funeral services were held at the house yesterday morning and were conducted by Rev. Johnson assisted by Rev. Burch of the Congregational church. The schools of the city were dismissed for the forenoon and attended in a body, the full corps of teachers.

Many friends from Doon were in attendance, beautiful floral offerings stood as expressive of the regard in which he was held. The choir consisted of Mesdames Lockwood and Abraham, Messrs. Parker and Howell. Prof. Grisell's Sunday school class of young ladies attended in a body. Rev. Johnson, his pastor, gave a touching tribute to his memory and feelingly spoke sympathy to the bereaved ones.

Services were also held at Hull in his old church home, many friends accompanying the remains to that place where he was laid to rest in the beautiful family plot.

The following relatives were present: Mr. and Mrs. George Ireland, Minneapolis; Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Wilkinson, Hawarden, Ia.; Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Losey, Emmettsburg, Ia.; Mrs. Yokey, Emmettsburg, Ia.; G. H. Grisell and brother, Van Oren, Ill.; the latter to being brothers of the deceased. Another brother in West Virginia was unable to reach here.