

BEAMANS MARRIED FIFTY YEARS AGO

CELEBRATE EVENT INFORMALLY AT THEIR HOME IN THIS CITY SUNDAY.

BOTH ARE PIONEERS
OF SOUTHERN GRUNDY

Town of Beaman Named For Mr. Beaman, Who Platted the Town in 1875
— Daughter of Man Who Married Couple Guest at Golden Wedding—
Beaman Friends Send Flowers.

Fifty years of married life were celebrated Sunday by Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Beaman at their home, 402 West Main street. The happy anniversary was observed informally owing to the poor health of Mrs. Beaman, the only guests of Mr. and Mrs. Beaman being Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Brooks, the former a brother of Mrs. Beaman, and Mrs. Jennie Wilson. Mrs. Beaman received her guests attired in a costume of her wedding day, including a hoop skirt. Dinner was enjoyed at noon.

Gracing the table was a beautiful bouquet of fifty narcissus blossoms sent by fifty friends of Mr. and Mrs. Beaman at their old home at Beaman, Grundy county, where Mr. and Mrs. Beaman lived for so many years. Mr. Beaman founded the town of Beaman, platting the townsite from his farm.

Married in This County.
Mr. and Mrs. Beaman were married in this county, at Vienna Center, Feb. 2, 1864, John Hunsdon, one of the earlier justices of the peace of this county, officiating. Mr. Hunsdon was the father of Mrs. Jennie Wilson, of this city, and the late Mrs. O. B. Chapin, of Union.

Wedding "Tour" in Spring Wagon.
The wedding "tour" of the young couple, Mr. Beaman then not quite 21 years old, and his bride two months past 19, extended over a period of three days and was made in a spring wagon. The first stop was in Marshalltown, where the bride and groom, in company with W. W. Brooks and Miss Phoebe Vincent, were guests at a Washington hall, held in the then-new Anson house, which stood about opposite where the Y. M. C. A. building is now. The second stop on the honeymoon journey was at Albion, and on the third day after the wedding Mr. and Mrs. Beaman reached their home on the Grundy county farm.

Plats Town in 1875.

Mr. and Mrs. Beaman were engaged in farming from the time of their marriage until June, 1875, when Mr. Beaman platted the land into the town that now bears his name. The new town, it was generally conceded, had a great future. A railroad was coming, and Beaman was to be the "eastern" terminus. Other men with Mr. Beaman put their time and money into the enterprise.

Farmers' Union Is Built.

And the railroad was built, from Liscomb to Beaman, a distance of twelve miles, with Liscomb as the headquarters. The official name of the road was the Farmers' Union, but more popularly it was termed Tripp's Basswood railroad. The rails, sawed out of basswood trees, were made by John Tripp at his sawmill, one mile west of Liscomb. The rails were laid to a narrow gauge, and steam trains were operated over the line for a period of six months. If J. B. Grinnell had lived the basswood rails would have been supplanted by steel, it is said, but this dream was never realized. The little locomotives and rolling stock passed into the hands of the narrow gauge road that later ran from Ames to Des Moines. Mr. Tripp, who promoted the road, later helped build the B. C. R. & N. thru Tama county.

Come Here in 1898.

After the establishment of the town of Beaman Mr. Beaman was engaged in the real estate and collection business in Beaman until 1898, when Mr. and Mrs. Beaman came to this city, where they have since resided.

Both Natives of Illinois.

Mr. and Mrs. Beaman are both natives of Illinois. Henry H. Beaman was born on a farm in Stephenson county, near Freeport, May 13, 1843. He came with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. S. S. Beaman, to Grundy county, in 1860. Mrs. Beaman, who was Sarah Ellen Brooks prior to her marriage, was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harrison Brooks, who settled just across the Marshall county line in Grundy county in 1854. Mrs. Beaman was born in DeWitt county, Illinois, near Farmer City, Dec. 22, 1844.

Mr. and Mrs. Beaman had one daughter, Cora Adella, who was born Nov. 26, 1865, and died Dec. 9, 1881.