

ELEVEN

HELPED TO BUILD THE UNION PACIFIC ACROSS THE PLAINS

**Thomas Kelly Ryan, Whose
Life Was One of Unusual
Activity in Long
Career, Dies.**

MANY YEARS AN IOWAN

Thomas Kelly Ryan, pioneer railroad builder in the west, and whose activity in the affairs of Iowa began in the early fifties, died at 8:30 p. m. Tuesday at the family home, 1515 Park avenue. He was 62 years old.

Born in 1854 in County Tipperary, Ireland, he came to the United States with his parents in 1861. The family settled in Iowa. After he had reached manhood, Mr. Ryan entered in railroad work. The railroads at this time were beginning westerly extension and in the projects of the time Mr. Ryan was keenly interested. In the building of the Union Pacific, the first railroad across the continent, Mr. Ryan's experiences were many and varied and contained more excitement than those ordinarily met by men in life's activities. At one time he was a guard along the right of way at night, when he walked the tracks of the Union Pacific guarding against attacks by hostile Indians. Mr. Ryan also helped to build the Muscatine Western, now a part of the Rock Island.

Mr. Ryan moved to a farm near Wilton in Muscatine county in 1884. He removed from Muscatine county in 1890 to Wellman in Washington county where he lived until 1915 when he removed with his family to Cedar Rapids.

In 1878 Mr. Ryan was married to Miss Ellen Nolan at Davenport. To this union were born four sons: James A., John T., Thomas E., Joseph F. All of Cedar Rapids, and four daughters, Mrs. J. H. Wetrick, Mrs. J. H. Kelly, both of North English, and Miss Monica, Cedar Rapids. Miss Winifred preceded the father in death in 1900. Other surviving relatives include three brothers, Monsignor James F. Ryan of Davenport, P. J. Ryan, Davenport and Peter L. Ryan, Muscatine.

Mr. Ryan was a member of the Immaculate Conception church, and of the Holy Name society.

Funeral services will be held Friday at 9 a. m. in the Immaculate Conception church when solemn requiem high mass will be held. Probably the Rev. Monsignor Ryan of Davenport, a brother, will conduct the service. Burial will be made at Mt. Calvary, Kenwood.

LAZELL AT AMES; WILL

Helped to Build the Union Pacific Across the Plains

Obituary of Thomas Kelly Ryan

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