

AMANDA VAN DYNE OSTRANDER
(Barb Ostrander)

A bit of explanation first. This is where Amanda and Peter are buried. I'm asking you to think of me as Amanda vanDyne who was married to Peter Ostrander. They are the parents of the man I wanted to tell you about today, William Grant Ostrander, also known as W. G. Ostrander, or Grant.

Good afternoon. My name is Amanda vanDyne. I was born in Jasper, Steuben County, New York, the second of thirteen children. I married Peter Ostrander in 1859 there. He was born in Preble, Courtland County, New York. He is buried beside me here. Peter was a farmer, and, in 1860, the census taker wrote that my occupation was "keeping house."

Number three son, William Grant, was born in 1868 while we lived in Troupsburg, New York. In about 1880, we moved to Wisconsin. In 1887, we moved to Rockwell, Iowa, and in 1895 to Buffalo Center where we operated a laundry. Peter died in 1901.

I then went to live with my son who lived near Thompson. I died in 1916.

But this is about W. G. or Grant. When we lived near Dumont, W. G. met and married Ida Badker on December 10, 1890. They farmed several places but then bought a livery stable in Forest City before buying one in Buffalo Center. I think these sleigh bells are from there.

He started the stable with Alec Wilson but that one burned. He built another one with new carriages and also provided good drivers.

Buffalo Center was just getting started, and W. G. was the first man to be named Marshall and Street Commissioner. When they started digging basements, they spread the dirt on what was Main Street. City officials ordered a "mighty fine piece of equipment" to replace a float. They had to level it first. This picture shows W. G. at the controls of the grader. He's the middle man. Bill Weible was the driver of the lead team. It took four teams of two horses to pull the grader. W. G. resigned as Marshall after one year. His monthly salary then was \$70 – very good at that time.

He tried farming in the Dakotas but that didn't work out so he came back to Thompson with seven children and a grandson whose parents had died.

About 1915, they built a beautiful "modern" home. It had running water furnished by a pump in the basement. My son was active in community affairs. In 1918, the Farm Bureau was organized, and he was the first president. Dues were \$5 then. He served on the elevator, church and school boards and was a member of Masonic and Odd Fellows Lodges.

His wife died in 1937. That was when they lived near Thompson and why they are buried there. His son Robert took over farming, and W. G. lived with them a while, and then with his son Earl in Buffalo Center.

W. G. would hitch hike to work at Thompson Machinery even at 81 years of age. Eventually he made his home at the IOOF Home in Mason City.

He died in 1959 at the age of 91. So ends an era.

I am glad to have known him, if only for about ten years.