

Herald Oct 18, 1881

The funeral of Mrs. Sarah H. Bixby, mother of Mr. T. H. Bixby of this place, takes place at 10 o'clock to-day. She was one of the number who united by letter with the church here at its organization. Her husband died three years ago this month. She became a Christian early in life and has kept the faith to the end. She was born in Concord, Me., in April 1801, was the oldest of five children—three sisters and one brother—and outlived them all. Capt. Joseph Hale and Lucinda Hale, her parents, died in 1854—the first deaths that occurred in Grinnell after the settlement of the place.

[O-21 - OBITUARY. 1881]

Mrs. Sarah H. Bixby, the wife of Deacon Sumner Bixby, deceased in Grinnell, Oct. 10th. Her age was 80 years in April last. She was one of the notable characters in the early history of Grinnell, and one of the twenty original members of the Congregational church. Her home was open for religious meetings before there was a church building, and from the first she has been warmly identified with the religious history of the place. She was a woman of fine native gifts and remarkable for ready wit and cordiality, though at times subject to melancholy. Mrs. Bixby was devoted to her aged parents, Mr. and Mrs. Heald, who came here from the state of Maine, and who were the first called away by death in Grinnell. She had a son, an officer in the regular army of marked ability, who died not long since, and her only child, Mrs. Amos Bixby, an intelligent and most estimable lady now resides at Boulder, Colorado. Mrs. Bixby had for years made her home with Deacon T. H. Bixby, the son of her husband, when everything that care and affection could suggest was done to brighten life's latest years. She will long be remembered and mourned for as a devoted sister waiting for her departure to an abode where her numerous kindred had gone before. The lessons of her life and death were appropriately presented by Dr. Sturtevant on the funeral occasion and she was borne out to rest beside her lamented husband who died but three years before.