

MRS. GEORGE M. CHRISTIAN DIES AT FAMILY HOME

March 6 — 1927.
Life of Love And Of
Beauty Is Ended
After 78 Years

A life of loveliness ended last evening with the death of Mrs. George M. Christian, at her home on Park street. She had been in failing health ever since an accident in 1920, which left her unable to walk without the aid of crutches, and for several weeks her condition has failed steadily. A few weeks ago, her daughters, Miss Jessie, and Mrs. Sumner Bump, were summoned and thus, with Mrs. A. C. Lyon of Grinnell, and her devoted husband, the family was privileged to be with her during her last days on earth.

Mr. and Mrs. Christian were the parents of six children, Charles and Mabel, who died in infancy; George Herbert, who died in 1914, and Alma Lyon, Jessie, and Margaret Bump.

Grinnell is acutely conscious of its loss in the death of this rare woman. Her life was not an ordinary life in any sense of the word, for it was marked throughout by brilliance, by high intellectual and artistic attainments, and, transcending all else was a capacity for living that is given to but few to know.

Margaret Rowse was born in Newport, Kentucky, 78 years ago on February 2. When she was a little girl she came to Davenport. Almost from her infancy she gave evidence of unusual musical qualities and artistic appreciation. At the age of thirteen she was organist in one of the large churches in Davenport, and in her young girlhood she possessed a voice of such unusual beauty that she was sent to a private school in Boston. Here under the chaperonage of her uncle, the famous Samuel Rowse, portrait painter and leader of the American art school she came under the influence of artists and leaders whose work for decades influenced the

nation and the world. Her uncle was regarded as one of the most gifted painters of the period, and his position in American art was comparable to that of Sir Joshua Reynolds and Gainsborough, abroad.

Under such tutelage the gifted young woman attracted the attention of the greatest artists and the homes of great men were open to her. Among her pleasant recollections were those of visits and week-ends spent at the homes of Jacobusson Lowell, Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

So brilliant was her career that she was regarded as one of the most promising sopranos in America and her uncle had arranged to give her further training in Paris when she decided to forsake her art to become the bride of George M. Christian. They were married in 1869 and a year later came to Grinnell where they have lived ever since.

The part that Mrs. Christian played in the life of Grinnell is well known. Here her three daughters were born and educated and the family have been active in all phases of social life and civic development. For years Mrs. Christian's beautiful voice was heard in the Congregational church and long ago the people of Grinnell came to honor, admire and love her.

Although, in giving up a career that promised so much brilliance, the world lost a talented artist, the world's loss was her family's gain, and she herself rejoiced in her decision. For more than she loved her art she loved the husband and the children who returned her love in such generous measure that her life was a life of unusual peace and happiness. Few, indeed were the occasions when her children returned home that Mother was not there to greet them, and always her gentle, serene nature, her love of

the beauty that she saw around and the deep abiding affection that grew steadily with the years served as a perpetual benediction to her loveliness. In the brilliant musical career of her daughter, Jessie, famed on two continents as a leading artist, she saw epitomized the art she had forsaken to make her daughters success possible. No store of her life would be complete, seems to the writer, without special reference to the love she always held for her husband, her partner in her happiness. The affection was unusually beautiful and serene and few couples have been privileged to live together for many days, each crowded abundant, and to overflowing with a love so lofty and so profound. Services will be held at 2:30 Tuesday afternoon from on Park street, conducted by E. F. Bosworth and Vittum. Music will be a quartet of Grinnell

Memorial

3-8-27 cat

Mrs. G. M. Christian Passes

Was Leader in Grinnell Music Circles and Rare and Talented Musician.

PASSED AWAY SUNDAY AT THE AGE OF 78 YEARS.

Funeral Services Were Held This Afternoon From the Christian Home.

Margaret Rowse was born in Newport, Ky., Feb. 2, 1849, and died at her home in Grinnell, Iowa, March 6, 1927 at the age of 78 years 1 mo., and 4 days. In early life the family moved to Davenport, where she lived until her coming to Grinnell with her husband in 1870.

She early gave evidence of being a fine musician and was sent to school in Boston where her talent and charm made her a welcome guest at many of the best and most cultured Boston homes. Her uncle, Samuel Rowse, was a famous portrait painter and leader in the American art school, comparable with Sir Joshua Reynolds and Gainsborough.

Under his tutelage she attracted the attention of Boston's cultured people and visited at the homes of Longfellow, Emerson, Lowell and others.

Her marriage to Mr. Christian in 1869 resulted in bringing to this city this young woman who was to have such a strong influence upon the development of music here. Her death is a real loss and saddens the entire community.

The funeral services were held at the home this afternoon at 2:30 o'clock conducted by Rev. E. F. Bosworth assisted by Rev. E. M. Vittum. Music was by the College String Quartet.

Bearers were Geo. H. Hamlin, J. H. McMurray, I. S. Bailey, F. E. Spaulding, Geo. R. Ross and E. H. Spaulding.

Mrs. G. M. Chris

The following obituary notice Mrs. G. M. Christian, read by Rev. F. Bosworth at the funeral, is more complete than that printed in Tuesday's Herald:

Margaret M. Rowse was born Feb. 3, 1849, in Newport, Kentucky. Her father, John Blake Rowse, after coming west two or three years before this and going into business in Cincinnati had married Angeline Owens of Kentucky. Soon after Margaret, their first child, was born, they came across the prairies to Iowa settling in Louisa County and later going to Davenport to make their home. As a very young girl Margaret showed such promise in music that she was put in charge of the best teachers of that city. She became organist in one of the churches at the early age of 13 and from then until she finished High School took an ever increasing part in the musical life of the city. From the time she was a small child, not much more than a baby herself, she was dividing her time between practicing and taking care of a baby brother or sister. After finishing High School she went to a private school near Boston where she studied English and French and had the advantages of some of the best teachers of voice and piano in Boston. While in the east she was under the supervision of her father's brother, Samuel W. Rowse, the foremost portrait artist of his time in this country and was invited with him to the homes of his friends James Russell Lowell, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. Mr. Rowse was so delighted with her voice and its reception that he made all arrangements to take her to Europe for further study and it was a great disappointment to him when she decided to be married instead. On Feb. 3rd, 1869, she was united in marriage to George M. Christian and in 1870 they came to Grinnell. Mrs. Christian was often called back to Davenport to take part in some program or cantata and the papers always spoke of her as "Our own song-bird Maggie Rowse." The demands on her time here in Grinnell

there were few outside the professional artists to compare with her in this line, her touch was so delicate and clear. But with her the piano never filled the place left vacant when she could no longer sing. Mrs. Christian has been a member of the Drummond Club almost since its organization. She belonged to the Historical and Literary Club for a number of years but resigned some time ago. Mr. and Mrs. Christian united with the Church in 1887 and while Mrs. Christian had been singing in the Church a good many years, from this time she confined her services more particularly to the Church, teaching a Sunday School class and taking a more active part in other branches of Church work. As her family grew up she felt they needed her, more especially since Mr. Christian's work took him out of town at this time, and she gradually relinquished her activities outside the home, giving up her choir and Sunday School work. For about twenty five years she has been a sufferer from heart trouble and more recently her lameness and defective hearing have caused her to avoid crowds or the larger group gatherings, and her love and affection have been more centered in her devoted husband, children, grandchildren, and smaller group of friends. Six children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Christian — Charles and Mabel who died in infancy; George Herbert who passed away in 1914; Jessie Isabel, now living in Chicago; Mrs. Alma Lyon, who resides in this city; and Mrs. Margaret Bump, of Ross, California. Besides her husband and these three daughters she is survived by three grandchildren, George Christian, Margaret Ellen, and Betty June Bump, of California, and a brother, Albert Owens Rowse of Gasconade, Missouri.

Christian, Mrs. G. M. (Margaret Rowse)

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Geo. H. d. in 1914, Jessie Isabel of Chicago,
Mrs. Alma Lyon of Grinnell and Mrs. Margaret
Bump of Ross, Calif. Ob.