

Monday, August 5, 1963

## Margaret Esler, Longtime Grinnell Resident, Dies

Mrs. Margaret Esler, 93, longtime Grinnell resident, died Friday morning at a Montezuma nursing home. She had been in failing health the past few years.

Funeral services were held this afternoon (Monday) from the Northside Friends church with the pastor, the Rev. Kenneth Headland, officiating. He was assisted by the Rev. Clarence Woollard, pastor of the Brooklyn Methodist church.

Organ music was provided by Mrs. L. V. Willison. Pallbearers were Paul Bacon, Kenneth Esler, Myron Esler, Kenneth Iske, James McCulloch, and Harold Whitaker. Burial was in Hickory Grove cemetery west of Newburg.

Born in County Antrim, Ireland, on July 23rd, 1870, she was the daughter of John and Nancy May Barr. She attended schools in Ireland and when she was 13 years old, her family moved to the United States, settling on a farm in Jasper county. She attended the rural school near the family home and on Mar. 31st, 1887, was united in marriage with Paul Esler, also a native of Ireland.

To this union were born eight children, five of whom survive: Mrs. Harry (Jennie) Bacon, Ross Esler, Mrs. Rolla (Agnes) Whitaker, Mrs. Mary McDowell, and William Esler, all of Grinnell.

The couple began their married life on a farm near Newburg and later moved to a farm south of Grinnell where she lived for 33 years. She had made her home in Grinnell since 1937.

Mrs. Esler was a member of the Northside Friends church and attended services as long as she was able.

Preceding her in death were her parents; her husband, Paul, in 1920; and four brothers and two sisters. Also preceding her in death were two daughters, who died in infancy; and a son, Paul, Jr., who died on Apr. 16th of this year.

Survivors include her five children; 15 grandchildren; 30 great grandchildren; eight great great grandchildren; and two sisters, Mrs. Elizabeth Buffum of Montezuma and Mrs. Agnes Woollard of Alden, Minn.