

12-17 OBITUARY, 1907

Margaret Alcorn Foster.

Margaret Alcorn was born in Ireland, Aug. 12, 1816 and died at the home of her son, A. A. Foster, in this city on the evening of December 13, 1907 at the remarkable age of past 90 years.

When but three years old she came to this country with her parents and settled in Jefferson county, Penn., where she was married, November 22, 1832, to William Foster. There they continued to live until 1851, when they removed to Scott county, Iowa, and settled on a farm near Davenport.

To them was born a family of 13 children, four of whom had died when Mrs. Foster was suddenly left by her husband's death in May, 1855, with a family of four boys and five girls to care for. Courageously she faced the duties and trials of raising such a family and gave them a good mother's care on the Scott county farm until 1869, when with the two sons and a daughter yet unmarried, she moved to Winfield and began farming five miles north of town.

Since giving up active work she has lived with her children, the greater part of the time with her son, A. A. Foster of this city, though much time was also spent at the Chester home of her son, Thomas Foster. In these pleasant surroundings she reaped the reward of the tender care which she had bestowed on her children for in her son's homes she found great peace and the loving ministrations of them and their families.

Her health has been remarkably good until last June when she fell and fell in the house, causing injuries which kept her to the bed most of the time afterwards and which without doubt hastened her end.

Mrs. Foster was a great "home body" and so is not perhaps as well known as she otherwise might have been but to those who did know her she was an entertaining and unusual woman. She had very strong convictions of the right and was firm in those convictions and consistent in holding to them. Having joined the Presbyterian church in her younger days in Pennsylvania, she always remained true to that faith although she was an attendant at both the Congregational and the Methodist churches in this city. She was a strong and brave woman and a woman of character, else she would never have been able to have met so bravely the trials of life in Iowa but five years after it had been admitted to the Union. Nor could she have, otherwise, been so successful in raising her large family unaided and alone.

She retained her faculties till close to the end and then her mind reverted to the scenes of her childhood and early married days, and she would call out to old friends, her husband and all the loved ones whom she believed to be waiting for her on the better shore, where her soul has gone to its well earned peace. Well might she have said, "I have fought a good fight, I have kept the faith."

The deceased had perhaps more grand-children and great-grand-children than any one in this city. She was the last of her own family and but three of her own children survive her but there are 67 grand-children, at least 100 great-grand-children and 2 great-great-grand-children.

Funeral services were conducted by the Rev. H. N. Darcumb at the A. A. Foster home Sunday afternoon at two o'clock and the remains were laid to rest in Hazelwood cemetery.