

OBITUARY

ADA FLORENCE GROSS

Ada Florence Gross passed away May 12, 1957, at the age of 86 in the Marengo Memorial hospital, Marengo, Iowa, following an illness of about four months.

Mrs. Gross was born March 16, 1871, in Poweshiek County Iowa, near Malcom. Her parents were Horace Burrus Royce and Marianne Okey, pioneer farmers of that County. Mr. Royce came to Iowa with his parents in 1860 from Vermont, and Mrs. Royce came from March, Cambridgeshire, England. Mrs. Gross was the third child in a family of seven. She was educated in the rural schools of Poweshiek County and the high school at Malcom, being graduated with the class of 1888. After graduation she taught in the rural schools of Clay and Poweshiek Counties for four years. She was married at Malcom,

Iowa, on March 28, 1894, by the Reverend John L. Gage to Anderson Monroe Gross, a son of pioneer parents, Luin Foy Gross and Sarah Jane McNabb. Following their marriage they moved to Union County, Iowa, where Mr. Gross was employed as telegraph operator and station agent at the newly located town of Arispe, on the Chicago, Great Western Railroad. Building lots were being given by the railroad company to encourage settlement in the new community so the newly married couple availed themselves of the opportunity to build their first home. In 1899, Mr. and Mrs. Gross purchased a farm near Arispe and in 1900 Mr. Gross gave up railroad work to devote full time to farming in which he was engaged until his death at the home place on September 8, 1927.

Mrs. Gross, with the help of her family carried on the farm work until the spring of 1932. At this time she broke up her home and lived with her sons and daughters until 1943 when she purchased a home in Malcom and lived there through the summers, sending the winters with her children until failing health in 1954 forced her to give up her own home. At this time she took up residence in Belle Plaine and was cared for by her daughter, Mrs. L. W. Ruhl, until her death. Eight children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Gross of which two, Alton Monroe and Ernest Everett, died in infancy. The six surviving children are: Mrs. L. W. Ruhl, of Belle Plaine; Mrs. Lillian Underwood, of Long Beach, California; H. R. Gross, of Waterloo, Iowa and Washington, D. C.; Lester O. Gross, of Creston, Iowa; E. L. Gross, of Strawberry Point, Iowa, and Sydney L. Gross, of Osceola, Iowa.

Mrs. Gross was a member of the Grinnell Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, and a long and faithful member of the church. She was united with the Presbyterian church in Malcom in 1893. Since there was no Presbyterian church in Arispe, she became a member of the Methodist church and it was in her home there that the first Ladies Aid Society was organized for that area. Funeral services, conducted by the Reverends Loren Parker and E. W. Holler, were held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, May 15 from the Presbyterian Church in Malcom with interment in Ivy Hill Cemetery in the family burial plot near Malcom.

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Also surviving are two sisters Mrs. James McKee of Malcom and Mrs. Edna Cooper of Long Beach, Calif, as well as 14 grandchildren, 21, great grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

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