

Dr. Julia Hill Dies Saturday

Dr. Julia Ford Hill, 84, died Saturday, Sept. 11, at the Mayflower Home Health Center. She had been in failing health for the past two years.

She was born Nov. 26, 1886, to Dr. Gershom Hyde and Louisa Hill. The family moved to Des Moines in 1902 where Miss Hill completed her high school education. She later enrolled at Grinnell College. Her grandfather, the Rev. J. J. Hill, was one of the founders of the college, and her father was an alumnus.

After being graduated from Grinnell College in 1909, she followed

her father in the study of medicine. She later served at the U.S. Army hospital in Atlanta, Ga., as a pathologist during the severe influenza outbreak at the time of World War I. She continued her education at the University of Iowa and John Hopkins University, entering the field of psychiatry.

Dr. Hill first worked with adults in Des Moines, then in child guidance centers in Worcester, Mass., and Pittsburgh, Pa. Returning to Des Moines in 1946, she was a consultant to two social agencies.

Dr. Hill retired in 1954, moving to Santa Barbara, Calif., where she was active in the Congregational Church and community affairs. In 1964, she came to the Mayflower Home and was instrumental in establishing a weekly meeting of those residents who were interest-

ed in Bible study. Her other main interests continued to be Grinnell College and its activities and the United Church of Christ-Congregational.

Funeral services for Dr. Hill will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday at the United Church of Christ-Congregational, with the Rev. Newell E. Davis officiating. Burial will be in Hazelwood Cemetery, with the James Schalinske Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

Memorial for Dr. Julia Hill

(Editor's note: The following comments were read at a memorial service for Dr. Julia Ford Hill at Grinnell College Sept. 15. Dr. Hill died Sept. 11 at the Mayflower Home.)

Those who knew Julia Ford Hill recognized her pride in her family heritage and a devotion to Grinnell College and its historic traditions which were greatly influenced by that heritage. It is appropriate that at the end of her life we recognize what Grinnell College owes to Dr. Hill and her notable Hill family.

Her grandfather, the Rev. James J. Hill, was one of the historic Iowa band by whom Grinnell College was founded. As pilgrim pioneers of Iowa religion and culture, they came from the east in the 1840s as missionaries with the common purpose "each to found a church and together a college." Each did found a church, and with James J. Hill's silver dollar the endowment for a college was created.

The guiding principle of these Grinnell founders was a belief in "the right initiative at the right time in the right place." They seemed to sense in their mission the challenge they would leave to those who were to follow and the two sons of James J. Hill readily accepted the heritage left to them.

Left a Mark

Few men left such a mark on

their alma mater as did James Langdon Hill and his brother Gersham Hyde Hill who both graduated from Grinnell College in the Class of 1871. As loyal sons of old Grinnell they embodied the early spirit of the college which characterized it as a Christian institution, liberal in its ideals, devoted to the rights of man and the development of the potential of the individual.

James L. Hill became a celebrated author and preacher. Gersham Hill, father of Julia Ford Hill, was one of the first ten physicians licensed in the state of Iowa. He carried that pioneer spirit of his father into the field of medicine and psychiatry, devoting his life to the care of the mentally ill. He called himself an "alienist" because he cast his lot with the "aliens" set apart from society by their mental illness at a time when they were treated as less than human beings. As superintendent of the state facility at Independence and as founder in 1902 of Hill's Retreat in Des Moines, later to be known as Hillcrest, Gersham Hill became nationally known as a psychiatrist and a leading authority on the treatment of mental illness.

Trustees

Both Gersham and his brother followed their eminent father in his example of living and of giving. They were devoted trustees of the college who contributed greatly to the rebuilding of the school after the cyclone disaster, they were charter members of Phi Beta Kappa, founders of the Hill oratorical prize still awarded to outstanding students in oratory and music; and they were, above

all, self-proclaimed loyal sons of old Grinnell.

As the only child of Gersham Hill and Louise Ford, Julia Ford Hill grew to womanhood educated in the Hill tradition, imbued with the pioneering spirit, with the characteristic Hill sense of purpose, and devotion to her fellow man. After graduating Phi Beta Kappa from Grinnell in 1909, she followed her father's footsteps in the field of medicine and then as a pioneer in child psychiatry. Hers also was a distinguished career and more important a distinguished life of Christian social concern, as she gave of herself to others as a truly gentle woman.

Devoted to College

Throughout her life Dr. Hill was very proud of her family and, as they, devoted to her college. Several years ago after returning to Grinnell in retirement she gave to the college a family heirloom—a quilt presented to her grandfather and grandmother by parishioners of their home church in Bath, Maine, at about the same time that the college was founded—125 years ago. Each family of the parish had created a square worked with great detail and with obvious love as a gift to the pioneer couple.

In entrusting the care and preservation of this quilt to the college Julia Hill indicated her devotion to her family's history and her family's college and her sense of historical perspective as the last of the Hill family.

The college and its alumni pay tribute to an outstanding Grinnellian and to the significance of the Hill heritage upon her life and upon the life of a college.