

# Death Calls

## H. T. Keener

2-22-1939

The death of H. T. Keener, February 18, came as a surprise to many Grinnell friends who had not known that he was seriously ill. His death takes away from Grinnell one of its most upright citizens, a man who was always interested in every good enterprise and who was a regular attendant at church and Sunday School. He had lived in Grinnell about twenty years.

H. T. Keener was born in Harrisburg, Ohio, January 21, 1855 and so was one month more than 73 years old. He was a son of Peter D. Keener and Magdalena Reepert Keener. He was married at Louisville, Ohio, October 10, 1878, to Josephine Ballard, a lady of taste and a native of France. Soon after their marriage they moved to Searsboro, Iowa, and for thirty years that was their home. About twenty years ago they moved to Grinnell where they lived at 1311 Spencer Street. Four children were born to them, Charles E. of Murdo, S. Dak., William who died July 12, 1922; Dr. Harry Keener whose home is Vallejo, Cal., and who is in the service of the United States, and Vernon M. whose home is at Agate, Neb.

Mr. Keener was trained to the painter's trade and also that of a carpenter and so was able to make himself useful in both capacities. In his earlier life at Searsboro he worked as a cabinet maker and also helped in the front room for the furniture dealer for whom he worked. He joined the Oddfellows while in Searsboro and was recognized as one of the most reliable men in the lodge and in the community. He was baptized in the Methodist church in babyhood and was always a worshipper in the church which he attended, a Christian in the strict sense of the word.

After he moved to Grinnell he was quickly recognized as an earnest, faithful and reliable citizen and he made good. He was a good reader, a good thinker and in his regular attendance at Sunday School he showed depth of thought and interest and in this town he became known as one of the people who believed in the church.

Of the four children, Charles E. of Murdo, S. Dak., was the only one able to be present. Dr. Harry Keener was in Grinnell just a short time ago and Vernon who lives at Agate, Nebraska found it impossible to come.

Mr. and Mrs. Keener enjoyed the pleasure of celebrating their golden wedding only a few months ago. There were many friends to extend their good will to a couple who had shown themselves worthy citizens.

Funeral services were conducted from Smith's parlor Wednesday by Dr. W. W. Bolt of the Congregational church after which the body was taken to Searsboro for burial. Singers at the funeral were Mrs. F. J. Kiesel, Mrs. R. T. Bouma, Thomas Smiley and Cecil Myers.