

The Grinnell Herald

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RAY & COWDEN, Editors & Proprietors

Grinnell, Iowa, Friday, Sept. 25, 1903.

ANN JANE (COWAN) LEISURE.

Mrs. John Brown passed into the unseen from Grinnell one week ago. On Wednesday last, Sept. 23, Mrs. Ann Jane (Cowan) Leisure followed her. Mrs. Brown had resided in or near Grinnell some forty-nine years. Mrs. Leisure's home had been on the same lot in our city more than forty-eight years. Good friends they were through nearly half a century. They had many characteristics in common and were honored alike for them all.

Ann Jane Cowan was born in Pittsburg, Pa., March 27, 1829, and by the death of her mother she became largely responsible for the care of a baby sister when she was only nine years old.

She was married to Mr. Wm. S. Leisure on March 9, 1852, when almost twenty-three, in Harrisville, a town in the vicinity of Pittsburg which was named for the father of Mr. James Harris, one of the earliest settlers here. It was there that the friendship began which has been so close for half a century between the Leisure and the Harris families. They came to Grinnell during 1855, and the Leisures brought their two daughters with them. Mrs. Leisure knew what it meant to live on a treeless prairie, in a streetless town, far from all luxuries, among young families, all equally rich but rich only in head and hand and heart.

Privations there were of course. She would have been disappointed if there hadn't been. She had her own family to care for and later a sister's children were added to that family. No home duty was neglected, and out from her own personal cares she used to go to share the common work of the young town and the benevolent labor of the infant church. At home and abroad her face was always as round as the sun and as radiant.

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She was interested in all that promoted the common good, enjoyed all associations of friendship, and loved to share in the plans and in the efforts of her sisters in the church and especially in their work for foreign missions. For many years she was a member of the Executive Committee of the Iowa Branch, and, as she anticipated her departure, she expressed special regret that she could not have done more to bless the world. Blessings crown such a life. Her memory is embalmed in the love and gratitude of husband, daughter, grand-daughter, foster children, benevolaries and of a wide circle of friends.

The funeral service was conducted from her late residence at two o'clock this afternoon by Prof. Parker and Rev. E. M. Vittum.