

# Matilda Light, One Of Pioneers, 8-25- 1931 Passes Away

(From The Montezuma Republican)

Matilda Light, pioneer of this county and Deep River, died quietly at her home Friday evening, at 8:00 o'clock, following a long illness. Funeral services were said from the home at 2:00 o'clock, Monday afternoon, conducted by the pastor, the Rev. W. F. Vanderlip. He spoke at the grave services also.

Music was by Miss Hazel McDonald and Miss Anna Blakely, who sang "Abide With Me."

The following fine obituary and tribute was read by the pastor:

Long before Matilda's birth on a farm near Deep River, Iowa, Oct. 31, 1852, the old stock from which she descended, Mathias and Martha Jane Hightower Light, had spent years of pioneering in this western country, as early settlers. Knowing, as only these settlers could, the rigors and privations of those early years, they were often rewarded in their toil and especially in the contentment and joy, unmixed by the clash and chase of today, which parents and children had together in the closeness of their lives, and the sterling worth of character resulting from their ofttimes simple lives. From such surroundings Miss Light came in which she lived until young womanhood.

She soon found a place for herself and usefulness at that time in working with and for Mrs. Norris as a milliner in Deep River and Montezuma, when stern duty, after Mr. Hutchinson's death, opened the way for her to be associated in the millinery business with her sister in Montezuma, succeeding not only for herself, but taking a second mother's place to her sister's children. In this life's work she has continued up until the present time. She and her sister were not only close in relationship, but in daily and hourly companionship and thought.

As life therefore progressed with the years Miss Light proved equal to it in the sterling character formed in earlier years. Besides the business duties of her life, she took time for the exercise of the finer things, in her interest in and for young people, and as such an example of kindness, sympathy, unselfishness and charity, never to be forgotten. She came from a most religious home, where early preachers often found shelter and where family prayers and the habits of religion were prized and practiced.

And so, although in these later years of physical infirmities, she could not follow up church attendance, she had the root of the matter in her. When suffering came in the last two years, though clinging to mortal life in a human way, she was prepared for the great change to the elysian and though often in great pain, patiently bore the providence of a kind and loving heavenly Father, and was resigned to His divine will. So, at last the reward for her has come. She was most gently and constantly waited upon by loved ones about her to the very last. Quietly Friday, at 8:00 o'clock in the evening, God came to her relief, and she entered into rest.

Two brothers, John Light of Montezuma, and H. C. Light of Brooklyn, and her sister, Mrs. Sarah Hutchinson, Montezuma, survive her, besides a number of nephews and nieces, and many other relatives.