

Miss Ella Marsh

Saturday, 2 p.m.

7-6-1934

Funeral services for Miss Ella Marsh who passed away Monday in Montour, Mo., will be held Saturday afternoon in the Congregational church at 2:30 o'clock. Burial will be in Hazelwood.

Miss Ella E. Marsh, came to Grinnell with her parents in October, 1854. She passed away at Montier, Mo., on July 2. She would have been 86 in September. While much of her life was spent in Grinnell, she was active and successful in many places. Graduated from college in 1868, she went that fall to Greenville, S. C., where she taught the freedmen. Later she taught two years in Mobile, Ala. She taught in Moline, in the Soldier's Orphan's Home at Davenport, and was principal of the city schools at West Liberty, Iowa.

She became state secretary of the Woman's Home Missionary of Iowa. In this work she traveled much and was an able speaker. For some years she took care of her aged mother; then lived at Mr. Gould's near Montier, Mo. Mrs. Gould had been a friend from her college days.

For some years she lived with her brother in Wichita but returned to Montier some three years ago.

Miss Marsh was always interested in church and W. C. T. U. work, and that interest continued to the end.

Funeral of Miss Ella Marsh Held Saturday

7-6-1934 (By W. G. RAY)

The funeral of Miss Ella Marsh was held Saturday at 2:30 o'clock from the Congregational church. It was conducted jointly by Rev. E. M. Vittum and Rev. Robert Inglis and burial was on the family lot in Hazelwood.

Music was furnished by Mrs. Grace Walker and Mrs. Margery Bouma, who sang "Lead, Kindly Light" and "Crossing the Bar." Professor H. W. Matlack was at the organ.

Pallbearers were George Buck, Ben Buck and son, Harold, G. L. Quivey and Ira Marsh and son, Raymond, from Iowa City.

The Herald published Friday a brief review of her life from the pen of her brother, Rev. H. L. Marsh, of Wichita, Kansas, but no real review can do the subject justice. The Marshes were one of the earliest families to settle in Grinnell, having come here in the fall of 1854. The family was strong in its church interest and affiliated promptly with the Congregational church. Two sons and one daughter graduated from Grinnell college. Two sons became ministers, and the daughter, with a strong,

high school work and spent some of her time among the freedmen. One daughter married G. H. Buck, and her family was also always active in every good work. Miss Marsh was an outstanding character. She was a wide reader, a careful thinker and a commanding speaker. When she spoke on the church platform she always had something interesting to say and she said it in a manner which attracted attention and interested listeners. There have been few, if any, women graduates of Grinnell college with more interesting and vigorous appearance when she rose to speak on the platform.

She turned readily to home missionary work and was for a number of years active in the state society. Her middle life was spent largely in caring for her mother and yet she was always able to speak with vigor and interest on the college or church rostrum.

Her later years were spent in Missouri and her letters were dated from Birch Tree. When the record is written of Miss Marsh's activities it will show that she was one of the most active women in Iowa, faithful in every good work and one who adhered to well living to the very end.

The Herald has been pleased to carry many evidences of her active mind and her wonderful memory of events which happened in the early days.

Miss Marsh has done a wonderful work in her lifetime and her memories will be bright lights in the tales of Grinnell for many years to come.

RECALLS THE EARLIEST YEAR.

Ella Marsh Writes Interesting Letter of Early Arrival in Grinnell Colony.

A reminiscence letter from Ella E. Marsh who is now at Montier, Mo., recalls the early days of '54, when the "bell" was rung to announce the arrival of a new family. The writer says:

"I've lately wondered who else is still living who was a resident of Grinnell that first winter of 1854 and 1855.

"Friday, at 2 p. m., Oct. 5, 1854, my father drove two horses hauling a covered wagon with our dear mother and four children, besides himself and a few worldly possessions in it. He had left Bristol, Wisconsin, Monday of the previous week, and we did not travel on Sunday. I, being six, the day we started, recall some things. As we neared the settlement, that 'bell' was rung. I recall that Mr. Whitcomb's folks came by stage coach, the next day. Abby and Helen were the children. Mr. Phelps' folks kept a hotel, and Scott's store was a landmark. The Lone Home was a Home to all.

My father's 14-foot square, upright board house was soon ready for use. With Mrs. Bosworth's father, his brother, Hammond, he had spent the summer there. The Christian colony and Mr. Grinnell appealed to him.

"Cordially,

"ELLA E. MARSH."

All who remember the elder Marsh recall a tall, strong, tireless God-loving man who was fitted to be a real pioneer. He had the building instinct, and was a big factor in making early Grinnell what it was. Mr. Grinnell once said of him in public: "No other person, gave so much to the first Congregational church as Mr. Marsh. Part in cash and a big part in work."