

(I.T.)

## MRS. HARRIET C. MARVIN PASSES ON

Devoted Woman Clos-  
es Life of Christian  
Service.

A life inspired up to its last moment by a pure flame of Christian zeal came to its close Sunday morning at 12:30 o'clock when Mrs. Harriet C. Marvin passed away at her home on Main street. Death followed a heart attack which she suffered Friday morning.

Funeral services will be held at 2:30 o'clock Tuesday afternoon from the Congregational church. The body will be taken to the church at 10 o'clock Tuesday morning and placed in the church library, over whose upholding she watched with passionate devotion during the last years of her life. Here all the friends who so desire may come to take a last farewell of a devoted and consecrated woman. The funeral arrangements are not complete at time of going to press, but there will be several speakers. Burial will be in Hazelwood cemetery.

For the following facts regarding Mrs. Marvin's early life The Herald-Register is indebted to an account begun by Mrs. Marvin herself which was set unmanuscript at her death.

She was born June 14, 1853, in a log cabin on a farm in Newport township, Johnson county, Iowa, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Calkin. Later the family moved to a frame house on a hillside overlooking the cabin, and here she grew to early womanhood. The home was located some four miles north of Iowa City but the family attended church services there every week, often taking a midday lunch with them and returning by way of the district school house at Rapid Creek, where they took the lead in conducting a Sunday school.

The home was located some distance from this school house and could be reached only by a lonely road through the timber, so Mrs. Marvin and her sister received their early schooling at home. When Harriet was ready for the seventh grade she was placed in the home of friends nearer Iowa City and pursued her studies in the Iowa City schools until she was ready for freshman work in the State University. The family at this time left the farm and purchased a double tenement house on Reno street East in Iowa City.

Between the home and the business sector, lay a settlement of foreigners, mostly Danemians. Mr. Calkin was distressed by the neglected condition of the children and obtained permission to start an afternoon Sunday school in a district school house in the neighborhood. Rude boys made so much disturbance that the Sunday school was given up. Mr. Calkin then fitted up the north half of his residence and invited the boys to evening meetings which proved successful and on Sundays the residence became the home of "Bethlehem Sunday School." All the members of the family helped as they could. Harriet served as secretary and looked after the supplies, most of which were donated through her descriptions of the work. She established a sewing class for girls which met on a weekday afternoon, and visited in the home.

While this work was at its height Henry Schaufier visited Iowa City and was greatly impressed by what was being done.

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### Closing Notice

In conformity with the

### Mrs. Harriet Marvin

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As a result Harriet entered the Schaufier School in Cleveland, Ohio, and was the first graduate of that well known institution.

Following her graduation she returned to Iowa City and continued her work among the foreigners until her marriage to Rev. H. C. Marvin on March 22, 1876, in Iowa City. The ceremony was performed by Professor L. P. Parker.

From then until failing health compelled Rev. Mr. Marvin's resignation, Mrs. Marvin lived the life of a minister's wife, helping him loyally in his various pastorates. They were located first in Hillsboro, Ill., and later in a succession of Iowa pastorates, including Corning, Anita, Shell Rock, Grinnell, Osgood and Lake View. Rev. Mr. Marvin retired from active service in 1914 and the family moved to Grinnell, where Mr. Marvin died in 1916.

After his death Mrs. Marvin saved the present church library with some of her husband's books and the development of this library has furnished the consuming passion of her later years, although she also continued her missionary activities. The library

has had a wonderful growth and now contains over 4,000 volumes. It is most fitting that the friends who call at the church Tuesday morning will pay their last farewell to Mrs. Marvin among the books which she had assembled with such loving care and to whose acquisition she has devoted not only her time but her money.

The contribution which she has made to her church and her community has been unique and her life stands as a testimonial to what one woman, consecrated to a great ideal of service, can accomplish.

She is survived by three step children, Arthur Marvin of San Francisco, Walter of Vallejo, Calif., and Mrs. J. S. McCuiff of this city. Mrs. Alice Ketch has made her home with Mrs. Marvin and has been her devoted companion and helper for the past twenty years.

#### AN APPRECIATION OF MRS. HARRIET C. MARVIN.

(From Congregational Iowa.)  
It were better to send a cheap bouquet  
To a living friend this very day  
Than a bushel of roses, white and red,  
To lay on his casket, when he is dead.

This bouquet of remembrance and appreciation of Mrs. Marvin is not "cheap," except that words cannot tell adequately the story of what she has done for our Iowa churches.

The days 1876, 1886, and 1927 have no special meaning to most of our younger people, but the organization of Iowa Branch of W. E. M. I., The Woman's Home Missionary Union and Iowa Congregational Woman's Missionary Society (our present Federation) are significant to us who knew what she did in the work of these societies. She had an active part as Executive Committee Member, Secretary of Young Ladies and Christian Endeavor work in the Branch, Secretary of Schaufier Fund, and of Literature in the Union.

If her service as an officer was not continuous, it was because as a pastor's wife her home was sometimes too far from Grinnell, where Executive Committee meetings were held.

The letters written, the packages sent out, cannot be numbered, hundreds, yes, thousands of them. The following tables has been placed on the office door at Schaufier:

"Furnished by Iowa Congregational Friends

In honor of Harriet Calkin Marvin  
First graduate of Schaufier  
(1888)

Since 1916, State Secretary of  
Missionary Literature for  
Iowa."

Being as familiar with the work on the foreign field as on the home, her help was invaluable, and being "State Secretary of Literature" was no small job to her with its unlimited opportunities to help. When anyone, anywhere, wanted material for a program it was always "Send to Mrs. Marvin. She will help you." That meant long hours of work looking over material for selection; trips to the post office (often postage at her expense).

We, who attended state meetings, can remember the tables and tables of choicest and most attractive leaflets. But one had to be a guest in her home to really appreciate the work connected with the preparation for these meetings: the trunks and boxes packed with fresh material from the Societies to make a worthwhile display of what was printed for our use.

State program addresses were not heard, lunches were eaten at the church that no moment should be missed to help some person

looking for material to interest the home church. "Missions have been no myth to her."

What a beautiful bouquet of choicest flowers we should like to bring to tell her again how very much we of the Iowa churches owe to her.

Oxenham's line are far her—  
"Live Christ" and all thy life shall be

A highway of delivery,  
A royal road of goodly deeds,  
Goad paved with sweetest charity.

Live Christ! And all thy life shall be

A sweet, uplifting ministry,  
A sowing of the fair white seeds  
That fruit through all eternity.  
A friend.