

Mrs. Frank ¹⁻⁹⁻¹⁹³⁴ Matteson Dies In California

(By W. G. Ray)

I have recently received a letter telling of the death of Mrs. Abbie Black Matteson at Long Beach, Calif. The letter calls up many pleasant memories of the olden days, becomes one of the links which binds many of us to the past. Mrs. Matteson was a kind and gentle lady with high ideals of what life ought to be. Her father, Charlie Black, was a citizen of Maine who sailed the briny deep and was one of a company of men who came to Grinnell in its earliest days and formed what was at that time a pretty large colony of Maine citizens.

Mrs. Matteson's brother, Herbert Black, was one of the writer's best friends in the younger days. Her brother, Fred, who is still living, was well known to the writer and the Charlie Black family is among the cherished memories of my earlier days in Grinnell.

Frank Matteson, Mrs. Abbie Black Matteson's husband, was a charter member of the Pythian lodge in this town and the altar which still adorns the lodge room of that body was made and designed by Frank Matteson and presented to the lodge as a part of his handiwork. The Knights of Pythias who still attend the lodge should occasionally stop in front of the altar and think of the loving spirit of the man who contributed so many years to make the lodge room a thing of beauty.

If I should speak of Mrs. Matteson as I feel I should say she was a lovely woman always and worthy of confidence and respect.

The Charlie Black home just south of the Rock Island track on High Street is now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. August Mithelman.

Following is the obituary sent us by Mrs. Fay Matteson:

"Abbie E. Black was born at Grinnell, Iowa, December 22nd, 1860, the only daughter of Charles M. and Sarah Mossman Black, two brothers preceding her in death, the youngest brother, Fred A. Black, of Rock Island, survives, also several nieces and nephews.

She was united in marriage to Frank L. Matteson Feb. 17th, 1881. Two sons were born to this union, Fay L. and Carl E., the latter dying in infancy. She was a charter member of the W. R. C. of Grinnell, Iowa, also an active Pythian Sister until their removal to Long Beach, Calif., in December, 1920. She was also a member of Emily R. Jewell tent No. 15 D. A. V. of Long Beach.

Her husband preceded her in death Sept. 16, 1927. Since his death she has resided with her only son, Fay L. Matteson, and wife in Long Beach, Cal.

She was stricken with paralysis the morning of Dec. 31st, 1933, and passed away the afternoon of January 1st, 1934, never regaining consciousness. She led a very active life and was a great lover of flowers and enjoyed working with them.

The services were conducted by Rev. Johnson Calhoun, United Presbyterian minister, from the Mottell Chapel in Long Beach, Wednesday, January 3rd, 1934, at 11:30 a. m. Interment in Sunny Side cemetery with her husband."