

Murl McDonald, 80, Veteran Extension Specialist, Dies

Murl McDonald, 80, prominent Mayflower Home resident, died at his home Monday morning.

Memorial services were held this afternoon (Thursday) from the 1st Congregational church at Ames with the Rev. Ralph Beebe and the Rev. Newell Davis, both of Grinnell, officiating. Interment was in Ames municipal cemetery with Adams funeral home in charge.

Memorial services were also held this afternoon at Mayflower Home with the Rev. Ernest J. Starr and Larry Reynolds in charge. Piano music was provided by Miss Ruth Campbell.

Born Jan. 1st, 1886, in Clay county, Neb., he was the son of Millard LeRoy and Emma Lenora Dixon McDonald. The family moved to Iowa in 1897 and he graduated from Shenandoah high school in 1902. He moved to Ames with his mother and two sisters in 1906 and graduated from Iowa State College with a degree in agriculture in 1911. He resided in Ames until 1962, with the exception of four years.

Following graduation he joined the Extension staff and later served in Extension from 1914 to 1951 until retirement.

He was married to Mabel Clara Bentley in 1919.

In 1951, he received an appointment in the Point Four program and was assigned to Lebanon as Extension advisor in cooperation with the Lebanon Department of Agriculture. While there he was awarded the "Order of the Cedars" by the Lebanese Government for distinguished service.

He returned to Extension service in 1953 to devote time to a special

assignment of obtaining funds for the State 4-H Club and later for the agronomy farm. He retired in 1956 and moved to the Mayflower Home in Grinnell in 1962.

He was a member of the Congregational church and was active on many committees, was active in the affairs of Mayflower Home, charter member of Ames Kiwanis Club, member of Arcadia Lodge of Masons in Ames and the Consistory of Des Moines. In addition, he was a member of numerous other organizations and held many awards and citations for meritorious service.

Survivors include his wife, Mabel; two daughters, Mrs. Muriel Baker, wife of Lt. Col. James O. Baker of the U.S. Army, and Mrs. Jean Lamb, wife of Robert H. Lamb of Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Co.; and nine grandchildren, Jamie, Victoria, Timothy, Deborah and Michael Baker, and Kevin, Larry, Christopher and Jennifer Lamb. Also surviving are two sisters, Mrs. Claude Kinnebrew of Fort Dodge and Mrs. C. R. Shumway of Ravenna, Ohio.