

Mrs. Florence Nichols, Here Most of Life, Is 100 Years Old

Only a few small frame buildings stood at Grinnell, and farm houses were many miles apart back on May 6, 1855.

But that is the day Mr. Florence Nichols, native of the Rock Creek and Newburg areas and a resident of Grinnell most of her life, was born.

Mrs. Nichols, in a rest home at Montezuma, will observe her 100th birthday anniversary on Friday, May 6.

Confined to a rest home for the past five years, Mrs. Nichols is in generally good physical health. Rest home authorities tell relatives that she generally eats very well and is a good patient.

Mrs. Nichols has been confined to her bed and a wheel chair since about three years ago when she suffered a fractured hip in a fall.

Born Florence Brown on a homestead at Rock Creek, she

was married at the age of 20 to Horace "Hod" Nichols. They farmed in the Rock Creek and Newburg communities during their early married years and in 1900 moved to a farm near Des Moines. Ten years later they returned to Grinnell and continued to reside here. They spent one year in Nebraska, but returned to Iowa because of the grasshopper plague which struck that year.

Returning to Grinnell in 1910, they constructed a house at 220 West street and resided there throughout the remainder of their years here.

Fourteen Children

Mrs. Nichols was the mother of 14 children, nine of whom died in infancy or early childhood. A 10th child died a few years ago. Surviving children are Floyd Nichols of Grinnell, Mrs. R. W. (Rosie) Evans of Newton; Charle of Waterford, Pa., and Raymond of Indianola. Eldest of the children is Rosie, now about 75.

She also has 26 grandchildren and several great grand children.

Nine In Family

One of 9 children, she has one sister, Nettie in California, still living. Four sisters, Ann, Liz, Lil and Florie, and three brothers, Bill, Emery and Hi are deceased.

Watched First Train

Among the stories which her son Floyd recalls, is that Mrs. Nichols and her brothers and sisters sat on a rail fence and watched the arrival of the Island railroad and its train into the Grinnell city. Her tales of the cyclone which struck the area also legend among her

children.

Floyd Nichols is hopeful of being able to spend a part of the day Friday with his mother on her 100th birthday, and other children from this area have indicated that they too want to be with her that day.

Her late husband was employed by the Grinnell city departments for more than 20 years and he also worked for a time here at the Spaulding company. He died 18 years ago.

Florence Nichols, 100, Dies Monday At Montezuma

Poweshiek county lost one of its oldest residents Monday night when Mrs. Florence Nichols, 100, died at Montezuma. She had been in ill health for the past three years.

At the time of her death, Mrs. Nichols was 100 years, four months and 28 days, having observed her 100th birthday last spring.

Funeral services will be held Friday, October 7th at the Smith Funeral Home with Rev. C. E. Kingsley, minister of the First Baptist church of Grinnell, officiating. Pallbearers will be Vern Appleton, Ralph Evans, Lloyd Nichols, Raymond Nichols, Thomas Van Cleave and Herschel Edwards.

Organ music will be furnished by Mrs. Rhee Auman.

Born at Kellogg on May 6th, 1855, she was united in marriage on February 29th, 1875 at Adel to Horace Nichols who preceded her in death in 1938.

Surviving are three children: Floyd Nichols of Grinnell, Raymond Nichols of Indianola, Mrs. R. W. Evans of Newton; 24 grandchildren, 48 great grandchildren and 19 great great grandchildren.

A sister, Mrs. Nettie Prather of Riverside, California also survives as do several nieces and nephews.

A resident of Grinnell for al-

most 30 years, Mrs. Nichols had been living in a nursing home in Montezuma for the past several years. She was a member of the Christian church.

Interment will be at Hazelwood Cemetery.

Horace