

L. Willard Reynolds

The Rev. L. Willard Reynolds, 96, a retired Friends minister and peace activist, died of a heart ailment Monday, March 19, at the Mayflower Home in Grinnell.

The body was cremated. A memorial service will be conducted at 1:30 p.m. Friday, April 6, at the Grinnell First Friends Church, with the Rev. Keith Briggs officiating. Organist will be Helen Millett, pianist will be Elaine Wedeking, and baritone soloist will be Marvin E. Kelley.

Burial of the ashes was in Bangor Friends Cemetery in Marshall County.

Memorials may be made to CROP, the Retired Ministers Fund of the Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends, or the Mayflower Home. Contributions may be designated and left at the Smith Funeral Home.

The son of Addison and Anna Hodgin Reynolds, he was born Sept. 26, 1893, in Mt. Home, Ala. He graduated from high school in 1911 in Mooresville, Ind.

During World War I, he served with the American Friends Service Committee doing reconstruction work in France. After returning to the U.S., he obtained his B.A. degree from William Penn College in Oskaloosa in 1922. He also studied at Chicago Theological Seminary, the University of Southern California School of Religion, and the Auburn Theological Seminary in New York.

He was married to Sabron Lancaster Aug. 15, 1923. He served as principal of New Providence Academy and as acting director of Southland Institute near Helena, Ark., a school founded by Friends following the Civil War to provide education to children of former slaves.

The Rev. Mr. Reynolds also served pastorates in Lynnhill, West Branch and Earlham, Iowa; Poplar Ridge and Clintondale, N.Y.; and West Newton and Valley Mills, Ind. He served interim pastorates in Minneapolis, Minn., and Denver, Colo.

Grinnell. He served as a part-time pastor for the Newburg and Chester churches. During his career, he attended numerous Friends meetings and conferences at the national and international level, as well as World Conference of Churches events.

He was known locally for his letters to the editor on peace subjects. Mayor Robert Anderson appointed him as Grinnell's "peace mayor" three years ago.

Surviving are a daughter, Sabron Newton of Chicago; two grandchildren; and a sister, Ruth Reed of Redondo Beach, Calif. He was preceded in death by his wife in 1986; a daughter, Miriam, in infancy; a sister, Mary Hester; and two brothers, Allen and Paul.

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Friends may contact the Smith Funeral Home for additional information.

H-R March 22, 1990

H-R April 5, 1990