

SOMERS, Eleanor Morrison

Grinnell Herald May 25, 1939

Clara Eleanor Morrison, daughter of David Sutherland and Fannie Ricker Morrison, born Grinnell, June 20, 1876, graduated from Grinnell College 1899. Married in Grinnell Nov. 10, 1900, Pearl Ellsworth Somers who had completed his medical course Rush Medical College and had begun to practice medicine in Grinnell. Mrs. Somers prominent in club and church activities. Two daughters: Ruth winter of Chicago and Faith Soebe (Mrs. Lee) of Tullahoma, Tenn. Mrs. Somers died May 24, 1939.

5-24-1939

P. E.

# "NONE KNEW HER BUT TO LOVE HER"

Mrs. P. E. Somers Closes  
Life of Loving Service

Wednesday,  
May 24, 1939

Few women in the history of Grinnell have touched more lives in a spirit of gracious and loving service than had Mrs. P. E. Somers, who passed quietly into the hereafter at 3 o'clock Wednesday afternoon after a period of five years of steadily declining health. She would have been sixty-three years old had she lived until her next birthday on June 20.

Funeral services conducted by Rev. Robert Inglis will be held from the Somers home at 816 Tenth avenue, at 6 o'clock Friday afternoon, with burial in Hazelwood cemetery.

The life of Mrs. Somers was woven inextricably into the life of Grinnell since the day that she was born Clara Eleanor Morrison on June 20, 1876, into the home of Mr. and Mrs. D. S. Morrison, prominent and worthy residents of early Grinnell. Mr. Morrison was the founder of the glove factory which still bears his name. During all the years of their lives here Mr. and Mrs. Morrison were powerful influences for good in their home community and the heritage which was handed down by them has been worthily carried on by their large family of sons and daughters. It will be many long years before the name of Morrison is forgotten in Grinnell as standing for sterling worth, integrity and right living.

#### Grew up in Grinnell.

Eleanor grew to womanhood right here in Grinnell. She attended the Grinnell schools, graduated from Grinnell high school and from Grinnell college in the class of 1899. All through her college course she showed the wholesome interest in good things, the qualities of leadership and the capacity for friendship which distinguished her all her life through.

On Nov. 10, 1900, she was united in marriage with Dr. P. E. Somers and established the home which has been a radiant center of cheer and hospitality through all the passing years. The activities of such a life as hers cannot

be measured. It can only be appreciated and remembered with deep affection.

Many of the activities of that life centered in the Grinnell Congregational church, of which she had been a member since her earliest childhood. It was in the church that her capacity for service was most clearly evidenced. For more than twenty years she was superintendent of the primary department of the Sunday School, a position in which she succeeded her mother and which she held until failing health compelled her to relinquish it a few years ago. She served as president of the Iowa Congregational

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Home Missionary Society and was vice president a few years ago of the Board of Home Missions of the Congregational Christian churches. She was a corporate member of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions.

In all the activities of the church she joined with wholehearted zeal and efficiency and all through her busy life as wife, mother and homemaker her church was always one of her main interests.

#### She Loved Her College.

She was active always in the alumni interests of the college. One of the last events which she attended and enjoyed was the Alumni Dinner a few weeks ago. The wife of one of Grinnell's athletic immortals, she shared his interest in clean athletics and was a familiar figure at football and basketball games and track meets.

Her home was always a center of hospitality. She entertained frequently and was always a welcome guest at the homes of her friends.

She was a member of the Tuesday club and of the P. E. O. and gave to her interests there the same qualities of devotion and helpfulness that characterized all her other activities.

To her as to few women the words of the poet apply:

"None knew her but to love her;  
None named her but to bless."

Mrs. Somers is survived by her husband, whose constant and loving care has lightened her declining days, two daughters, Ruth, Mrs. Leonard Winter of Dubuque, and Faith, Mrs. Lee Soesbe of Tullahoma, Tenn., and four grandchildren; also by two brothers, Frederic of Grinnell and Donald of Huntington Park, Calif., and one sister, Addie, Mrs. Chas. F. Chase of Lincoln, Neb. Two brothers, Frank and Julian