

A Pioneer Lady Is Dead

8-30-1927
Mrs. S. J. Sparks Passed Away At Her Home Here Friday Morning.

FUNERAL SERVICES WERE HELD SUNDAY

Mrs. Sparks Was 85 Years Old And Had Lived Many Years In This Community.

A true woman who found her main interest in life in the fostering care of those she loved, was called to the other shore, when Mrs. S. J. Sparks passed away, at her home 724 East street, Friday at 12:25 p. m.

On August 14th she celebrated her 85th birthday, and had rejoiced in the many cards, and evidences of remembrances, which came to her from relatives and friends.

Mrs. Sparks had not been in good health since an illness last winter, but was not seriously ill, until about ten days before her death, which was due to pneumonia. Her children were about her bedside, when the end came, except her daughter, Mrs. Eliza Christie, of Spokane, and a step-daughter, Mrs. Amanda White (to whom she had been a real mother) of Riceville. Mrs. White and Mrs. Christie had recently made their mother a long visit.

Mrs. Sparks was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Gile, born in Boone county, Indiana, August 14th, 1842. In early girlhood, she moved with her parents to Rock Creek township, near Grinnell, and was married when seventeen years of age, to George D. Wolf. They made their home in Rock Creek township until the Civil war broke out, when Mr. Wolf enlisted in the Union army, the 40th Iowa Volunteer Infantry. While in the service he was taken ill, and died in Chattanooga, Tennessee. To this union were born two children, Eliza, now Mrs. Christie, and Calvin, who died in infancy.

On Dec. 26, 1863, she was again married, to S. J. Sparks, of Lynnville. To this union six children were born: Sarah, now the wife of Chas. Monroe, of Oskaloosa, William P. of Grinnell, Laura M., the wife of A. N. Hockett, of Grinnell, Perry M., of Montezuma, Clarabelle, who died when three years of age, and Jasper M., who is still at home.

On Dec. 26, 1913, one of the great joys of their married life came to Mr. and Mrs. Sparks in the celebration of their golden wedding anniversary, when children, grandchildren and relatives from far and near, assembled to do honor to the happy event.

Mr. Sparks passed away July 29, 1918, and since then Mrs. Sparks has lived quietly on in the same home, tenderly cared for by her daughter, Mrs. Hockett, who made her home in the same house with her mother. Besides her children she leaves to mourn her loss thirteen grandchildren, thirty great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Sparks in her early youth became a member of the New Light Christian Church, and continued in this faith during her entire life. She will be remembered as a true wife and mother; a woman who found joys in the humble pleasures of the home.

All her children rise up to call her blessed.

Funeral services were held at the home at 1 o'clock Sunday afternoon, Rev. Mr. Simcox of the Friends church conducting the services. Mr. Richards and daughters furnished the music. The pall bearers were nephews of the deceased. They were Charles and Wesley Potter, George Sparks, Billie Sparks, Ed Sparks and Milt Sparks.

Stephens