

Mrs. Henry Viets Passes

Woman Closely Related to Early Life
of Grinnell Dies in Long Beach,

6-7- Calif. 1927

THE BODY WILL BE
BROUGHT HERE FOR BURIAL.

Funeral Services Will Be Saturday at
10 A. M. From Paul Meyers'
Home.

Sad news came to Grinnell with the not unexpected word that Mrs. Henry Viets, after a lingering illness, had passed away in Long Beach, Calif., Sunday.

The body will be brought to Grinnell for burial and will reach here Friday accompanied by Miss Sarah Viets and Mr. and Mrs. Harry Viets and daughter Louise.

Funeral services will be held Saturday morning at 10 o'clock from the home of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Meyers. Burial will be in Hazelwood.

The death of Mrs. Viets removes another who has been close to the life of Grinnell since its founding. She was the daughter of Henry G. Little, and was a young married woman when the family moved to the then tiny colony of Grinnell. The five little daughters are well and fondly remembered by Grinnell people of the early days. They were Mrs. Viets, the oldest, and the last to pass away, Mrs. Jesse Macy, Mrs. J. P. Lyman, Mrs. A. W. Alvord and Mrs. Henrietta Holyoke.

Mrs. Viets made her home in Grinnell through all her active life, but a few years ago she went west and in her declining days has been surrounded by the loving care of her children.

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FUNERAL HERE SATURDAY FOR MRS. H. S. VIETS

June 6th 1927
Services Held At The
Old Home; Many
Attended

Louise Little Viets was born on a farm near Wethersfield (now Kewanee) Ill. on May 29, 1843. Her parents, Henry Gilman Little and Fidelity Stoddard came from New England to Ill. at the time of their marriage in 1836.

Her education was obtained in the rural schools of Illinois and at Oberlin College, where she met Henry S. Viets. At the close of the Civil War Mr. Viets was discharged from service, June 14, 1865 and on December 27 of that year he and Louise Little were married at Kewanee, Ill. They resided one year in Oberlin and came to Grinnell, Iowa in the spring of 1867. Here the home was established at the corner of Fifth and High street, the family living there when the Iowa Central railroad was built. In this home five of the six children were born, three daughters and two sons.

In 1880 the family moved to a farm on the east city limits, where they resided continuously with the exception of a few years of pioneer life in South Dakota.

In the fall of 1911 the family moved to 1214 Broad St. where Mr. Viets' death occurred December 7, 1916. Since that time Mrs. Viets and her daughter have spent much of the time in California as well as one winter in Florida, returning frequently for a several months stay in the old home.

During her life in Grinnell Mrs. Viets was a member of the Congregational church and always loved to attend its services and the meetings of the Missionary Society. She loved the church and was interested in its progress in the community and helped in its work as her strength permitted.

Mrs. Viets was one of the early members of the Elizabeth Earle Magoun Club this being the one social group with which her interests were associated. Although her life was centered mainly in the home, she had many friends who were influenced by her sweet and gentle personality.

Mrs. Viets was the last member of her generation. She was the eldest of the family of five sisters and one brother all well known in Grinnell in the early days. The next younger sister, Mrs. Macy preceding her by only a little more than a year.

During the last eight months of her illness Mrs. Viets was under the tender care of her daughter and of her niece, Miss Myrta A. Lyman, who were constantly alert to surround her with every comfort.

Only two of the six children lived, Sara Elizabeth who has been her constant companion during the later years of her life, Henry Little Viets who was a tower of strength to his mother for many years. The family of this son, Mrs. Gertrude Van Evert Viets and the two children have added much to the happiness of Mrs. Viets' declining years. She was intensely interested in the activities of her only grand daughter, Louise Eleanor and only grand son, Henry Edwin and followed their advancement with the greatest pride.

Services were held Saturday morning at ten o'clock at the Paul Meyers home, which for many years was the old Viets residence. Rev. E. M. Vittum, her former pastor and a warm friend of the family, conducted the services. Mrs. E. B.

T. Spencer, member of the Elizabeth Earle Magoun Club sang, "Jesus Lover of My Soul", accompanied by Mrs. G. L. Pierce, also a member of the Elizabeth Earle Magoun Club. Bearers were Paul Meyers, David Meyers, Professor W. A. Noyes, of Urbana, Ill.; Will Sanders, Lyman Sanders and Robert Sanders.

Of Interest To All

The passing of Mrs. Viets takes away the last member of a family who at one time made one of the most outstanding groups in this city. She was not only the oldest of the family, but she was also the last to go.

Mrs. Viets' father, Henry G. Little, was of New Hampshire stock. He was born in 1813 and came west soon after his majority, locating at the then new town of Wethersfield, Illinois, in 1835. He was one of several brothers who settled at Wethersfield, the others living there the remainder of their lives. Mr. Little was a man of outstanding build, large, erect, and determined. He was active in the political life of Henry County, Ill., and served not only as sheriff of that county but as a member of the legislature in a district composed of several counties. His home in Wethersfield was a large prominent brick house, built at the north edge of the village, and fronting the plat of the town of Kewanee after that city was laid out. In 1861 Mr. Little moved to Grinnell and built a home exactly on the pattern of his Wethersfield home and he lived there until he sold it to Grinnell college.

In his life here he served not only as member and president of the School Board, but as mayor and was also a member of the Board of Trustees of the State Agricultural college. He was a breeder of short horns on his farm east of the city and was actively interested in the State Association and was at one time its president.

He and his wife were leading members of society and their family of girls were recognized always as among the brightest, most attractive, and beautiful girls of the town. The home was a center of culture and comfort.

Mrs. Viets was married at Wethersfield to Henry Viets and they moved to Grinnell in 1867. Here she became with the others active in church and social work and was recognized as one of the leaders of a family of leaders. In the early '80s Mr. and Mrs. Viets joined a group of Grinnell colonists who moved to S. D., where they lived for several years. Some of them returned to Grinnell in the later '80s, coming not long after the terrible blizzard which swept that state in February, 1888. Mr. Viets suffered in this storm, as did many others.

After the return of Mr. and Mrs. Viets to Grinnell they went back at once into the group to which they be-

longed and became active in every work for the good of the city. Mrs. Viets again dropped into the field which she occupied before she left Grinnell and here where she was known for so many years she is remembered as a woman of strong individual characteristics and yet so gentle and so modest in her manner that everyone was a friend.

The years have passed. Her life in California and her growing age have partially obscured the work she did and the place she filled in the years of her active and vigorous life and yet those who know her then mourn her loss with deep regret because they remember a woman with a kindly face, a generous word, and a helpful hand where help was needed and with the grace and graciousness of right living.

The body reached Grinnell Friday and the burial service occurred at the home of her niece, Mrs. Paul Meyers, at ten o'clock Saturday morning. Kind and gracious words were spoken by Mr. Vittum who knew her well when he was pastor of the church here. The music was a song by Mrs. E. B. T. Spencer, Mrs. G. L. Pierce at the piano: "Jesus, Lover of My Soul."

Pall bearers were: Will Sanders, Robert Sanders, Lyman Sanders, Paul Meyers, David Meyers, and Professor W. A. Noyes.

Louise Little Viets was born on a farm near Wethersfield (now Kewanee) Ill., on May 29th, 1815. Her parents, Henry Gilman Little and Frelia Stoddard from New England came to Illinois at the time of their marriage, in 1836. Her education was obtained in the rural schools of Illinois, and at Oberlin College, where she met Henry S. Viets. At the close of the Civil War Mr. Viets was discharged from service June 14th, 1865, and on Dec. 27th, 1865 he and Louise Little were married at Kewanee, Ill. They resided one year in Oberlin, Ohio, and came to Grinnell, Iowa in the spring of 1867. Here the home was established at the corner of Fifth and High St., the family living there when the Iowa Central R. R. was built. In this home five of the six children were born, three daughters and two sons.

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