

Dr. John S. Nollen Passed Away In Des Moines Early This Morning

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Dr. John Scholte Nollen, president emeritus of Grinnell college, whose life has been closely interwoven with this community, both town and college, for many years, passed away in a Des Moines hospital at 5 o'clock this morning. He had lain unconscious there since undergoing a critical brain operation two weeks ago last Monday. Dr. Nollen had passed his 83rd birthday on January 15, but up to his last and fatal illness he had retained to a remarkable degree his physical and mental vigor.

National Prominence

A man of friendly nature, of wide culture and varied interests, he has left his imprint on the life of Grinnell in many ways and his many activities had given him not only statewide but national prominence.

His Grinnell friends will always remember his active, vigorous presence, his abounding vitality, his ebullient greeting and his very sincere interest and helpful support of church and all good things in the community which he loved and which has been the scene of so much of his mature activity.

Funeral Plans

The body will be cremated and the ashes will be taken to Lake Forest, Ill. for interment. From Lake Forest Mrs. Nollen will return to Des Moines for a few days and will then come to Grinnell. After her return a memorial service will be arranged at some date to be announced.

The family requests that any memorial to Dr. Nollen shall take the form of a contribution to the Congregational church building fund, the project which constituted his last activity in this community.

The following obituary was prepared by the Public Relations department of the college:

Born In Pella

John Scholte Nollen was born Jan. 15, 1869, at Pella, the town founded by his maternal grandfather, the Rev. Henry P. Scholte, a Dutch nonconformist minister who had brought a colony of Hollanders to Iowa in 1847. His father, John, who had taught mathematics at a "gymnasium" in Holland before emigrating to Pella, gave the boy his early education.

After graduating from Central college in Pella, with an A. B. in 1895, Dr. Nollen taught there two years, then took another A. B. from the University of Iowa, in 1898. The next five years he spent abroad, two years in private tutoring at Cham, Switzerland, the rest in study at the Universities of Zurich, Leipzig, and Paris, with a Ph.D. from Leipzig in 1903.

"The Nollens Of Pella"

Such scholarly zeal was natural in one who was part of a family that came to be known as "the Nollens of Pella." The Dutch teacher-father, who became a cashier of a Pella bank, also founded and edited the Pella Gazette and cultivated wide cultural interests, and the other



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land, and then went to Leavenworth in 1907 to teach at Pennard college in California. The death of Pres. John Hanson Thomas Mann brought him to acting presidency of Grinnell April 20, 1941, and on June 5, 1947, he was elected the fifth president of the college, with inauguration the following February.

Nine Years as President

His nine years' presidency at Grinnell covered the period of severe economic crisis brought on by the great depression, with drastic measures needed to control deficits, seek new funds, conserve resources, rebuild enrollment, and improve the faculty. The general result was achievement of a balanced budget by 1956. Among other accomplishments, of President Nollen's regime were revision of the curriculum, greater democracy in administration, more self-government for students, maintenance of alumni interest, and establishing of the international relations institute and lecture series.

Arriving at the normal retiring age in 1939, Dr. Nollen remained another year in office while the college trustees sought his successor. With the election of Dr. Samuel N. Stevens in June, 1940, as sixth president of Grinnell, Dr. Nollen became president emeritus of the college.

Faculty Resolution

In a resolution addressed to "our friend and president, John Scholte Nollen," upon his resignation of the presidency, the college faculty in 1946 declared: "The range, and versatility of his mind, the ample scholarship that he has never allowed to lapse, the integrity and generosity that all could count on, have been humanized by his friendliness, his sense of humor, his unflinching patience, and his joy of living. Dr. and Mrs. Nollen have been a priceless claimant in the life of Grinnell."

The Nollens continued to contribute to the life of Grinnell both college and town, by active interest and participation in campus, community, and Congregational church affairs. Upon Dr. Nollen's retirement, they

continued their own varied interests and the other children included the late Henry S. Nollen, who was president of Equitable Life in Des Moines. General S. Nollen retired board chairman of Bankers Life in Des Moines, and two sisters, Sara M. and Hanna T. Nollen, both of Des Moines, prominent themselves in educational activities.

On Sept. 11, 1906, Dr. Nollen married Emeline Barstow Bartlett of Providence, R. I., and they had two daughters, Anna Barstow Nollen, now of New York City, and Emeline Bartlett Nollen, now Mrs. Parker Edwards of San Francisco. There are two granddaughters, Emeline Edgart of New York City and Ann Edwards of San Francisco. Mrs. Nollen died in 1910, and in 1913 Dr. Nollen married her sister, Louise Stevens Bartlett.

Comes to Grinnell

Dr. Nollen first came to Grinnell in 1893, following his student appointment as professor of modern languages, remaining until 1895, when he went to Indiana University as professor of German until 1906, when he went abroad for a year abroad. From there he was called to the presidency of Lake Forest (Ill.) college, and soon continued in the office until 1918, resigning when it became evident that the voluntary war service he had started in 1917 was an "last indefinitely."

War Service

His voluntary work abroad began with American troops in France, under the YM.C.A., and from 1918 to 1921 he served as general secretary of the international YM.C.A. commission with the Italian army. He then joined the American Red Cross commission to Europe for several months in 1920, and was instrumental in organizing the Junior Red Cross in Europe.

Back To Grinnell

He came back to Grinnell in 1920, to serve 11 years as dean of the faculty and head of the department of European languages. He spent the summer of 1927 in attendance as a delegate at the World Conference on Faith and Order at Cambridge, England.

gradual church affairs. Upon Dr. Nollen's retirement, they moved to their own newly built home near the campus, which they quickly made a continuing center of gracious hospitality, where Dr. Nollen continued his scholarly activities, studying, writing and preparing for speaking engagements.

Scholar And Educator

As a scholar and educator, he had German literature as his particular field. He wrote a number of books dealing with its study and history, edited several volumes of the works of German writers, contributed to philological and literary magazines, and wrote a life of Goethe. He also wrote for the Grinnell college centennial in 1916, a history of the college, "Educational Pioneer," and contributed articles to general magazines and newspapers.

Many Honors

His honors were many. He received the honorary degrees of LL. D. from the University of Iowa in 1910, L. H. D. from Grinnell in 1919, and Litt. D. from Central college in 1943. He was decorated after his World War I work with the orders of the Italian War Cross and Com. of the Order of the Crown of Italy. He was serving as president of the Association of American Colleges when he entered that volunteer war work, and he was a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Modern Language Association, English Speaking Union, Goethe Gesellschaft, and various other organizations.

Recent public service included his membership on the Iowa State Board of Educational Examiners from 1943 to 1949, governorship of the Nebraska local district of Kiwanis International in 1939, and the Iowa chairmanship of Finnish Relief in 1941. In 1941 he was appointed state chairman for government savings bonds and continued the service for a decade, in 1951 taking on an extraordinary role for the German

Ray Dazler suffered a light stroke Monday morning and is a patient at the hospital.