

Obituary for Mrs. O. W. Park, the former Carrie Ruth Beaton

HAPPY LIFE OF MRS. O. W. PARK ENDS

Was Oldest Woman Born
In Grinnell Still A
Resident.

Caroline Ruth Beaton was born in Grinnell September 27, 1857, daughter of William Beaton, Jr. and Corretta M. Hubbard Beaton. Two little brothers died at the age of five years. William Hubbard Beaton, slightly her junior, and Henry Adam Beaton, her elder, Isabelle Beaton, twelve years her junior, passed away at the age of fifty-nine.

Caroline Ruth, known as Carrie, united in 1876 with the Congregational church of which her parents were members. She graduated from the Grinnell high school June 10, 1878. Her essay still a family possession was delivered in the old church building, the topic, "O, the Good Teacher," referring to education. She attended college here, class of 1878.

On January 10, 1878, she was united in marriage with Oliver Winston Park, formerly of nears port Harbor, Maine. After two years in Nebraska, they returned to Iowa at the request of Mr. Beaton, who wished them to live near by, and they lived forty years on the farm three miles from Grinnell which Mr. Beaton had purchased when the prairie had never been broken.

A Happy Woman.

Mrs. Park was a happy woman. All her duties, all her possessions, all her opportunities, were a joy to her. The hardships of pioneer days in Nebraska in the sad house that her husband prepared for her were only a part of living a very happy life. So were her duties as a farm wife in Iowa, sewing for her children, teaching them from books and from nature, giving music lessons to neighbors' children, and cultivating her large garden and flowerbeds with her husband's kindly help. Working

the latter and packing it with her own exquisite skill, and "keeping up her calling list" as ladies did before the advent of the telephone. Both Mr. and Mrs. Park were active members in the Chester Royal Orange and the Merry Go Round Club, and when they came to town to live in 1922, Mrs. Park joined the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, the Grinnell Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and the Historical and Literary Club.

Until entering her eighty-fifth year, Mrs. Park read her "club paper," wrote letters with her own hand to her son and her grandchildren in her clear, fine handwriting, discussed with friends the best way to cultivate roses, and rejoiced daily in the beauty of her flowers and her well tended lawn.

Friends loved to come to the Park home, feeling that they could lay down the burden of their hearts and come away comforted.

Governed With Gentleness.

Mrs. Park governed her home with a gentleness which is reflected in words that were spoken to her recently by a man who had once worked for Mr. Park as a farm hand. He said, "Mrs. Park I am going to say something to you now instead of waiting till you are dead, and then saying it. I lived in your home for a year and I never heard an unpleasant word."

In her declining days, Mr. Park sent loving messages to her family and to her Ohio kinfolk, saying "My mother dedicated me to God," and "My mother said 'Pleasant memories must be planned for' and my mother wrote these words for me. The future is the strength of the soul."

Mr. Beaton, Carrie's father, was a teacher of singing. He trained Carrie's voice with the expectation that she would become a concert singer, and even in her eighty-fourth year she could sing in a clear, steady, sweet soprano voice. Many diligent hours in her girlhood were spent playing accompaniments on the piano for her father as he played his violin. She taught Sunday School class and once played the accompaniments for

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Mrs. Park

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the gospel hymns at a series of revival meetings.

Grinnell's Oldest Woman

It is of historical interest that when the Mothers Meeting was organized in the home of Mrs. J. B. Grinnell, Carrie Beaton, then a small child, accompanied her mother and was present on that occasion. At the age of eighty-five Mrs. Park was the oldest woman born in Grinnell still living in Grinnell.

Recently Mrs. Park spent a happy winter vacation at the abode of pioneer life of herself and her family. The manuscript has been found under the caption, "Mother's Stories and Mine," by Caroline Ruth Park, and has given pleasure to her family and friends as well as affording a gratifying sense of achievement to Mrs. Park herself.

Mrs. Park passed away at her home at quarter past two in the