

The Grinnell Herald

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INTO THE LIGHT.

The death of Mrs. E. W. Clark breaks another of the links that connected us with the beginnings in Grinnell. A little account of her life may interest those who love our town.

Martha Cilley Brainerd was born in the Presbyterian parsonage of the old Scotch-Irish town of Londonderry, N. H., on Nov. 12, 1846, the third daughter and fourth child of Harriet Poor Cilley and Rev. Timothy Green Brainerd. Another sister was born and then the young mother passed on, leaving behind her four little girls to comfort the busy pastor.

The appeal of the motherless girls and needs of the parish for a leader of the women brought to them a new mother, Lucinda Dewey, from Hanover, N. H.

Even then the parents' thoughts turned to the west and the opportunities for work in a new country. The appeals published in the New York Independent for the proposed colony at Grinnell were thoughtfully considered but the way did not then open.

In 1851, after fourteen years' service at Londonderry, the father moved to Halifax, Mass., to be the pastor of the Congregational church. We suspect that his "radicalism" in preaching and practicing total abstinence had something to do with the move, since his predecessor was accustomed to being helped home after a round of parish calls.

In 1856 the way to the land of opportunity opened and in the fall of that year the family came to Grinnell, tho the daughters did not arrive till spring. Martha had been well trained for her chosen work of teaching. A student at Abbott Academy, Andover, and a graduate of the Salem Normal School, she had served her apprenticeship in the city schools of Charlestown, Mass., now a part of Boston.

She entered at once into the work at Grinnell, helping in the first real organization and grading. At least two of our present principals of schools began their studies as her pupils at this time.

In the autumn of 1874 she was married to Dr. E. W. Clark and thenceforward they worked together. As five of her ancestors had answered to the Lexington alarm so she was early to respond to a civic call. When women were first made eligible to the school boards of Iowa, with her husband's assent she was a candidate and with Mrs. Mathew Phelps was elected and served two terms. So she responded to the call for service in the Education Society, the Cemetery Association, the

Church and the Mission field; wherever there was a call.

But these things after all were only the extras of life. Her real work was in her home; while mothering her own family of five children, she always added others; first her brother, Will, when he was left homeless through his mother's death, then a long line who shared the home and were proud to be called her boys as they went out into the world; who came back in after years to tell her of their deeds and share their honors. So a group of "Her Boys" came back yesterday that their loving hands might lay her body at rest.

For the past year she has been an invalid but with mind alert has been a comfort and inspiration to her friends; while life has been a joy to herself.

Since the paralytic stroke some two weeks ago she has been but partly conscious and was spared pain. Tuesday evening, rousing with the illumination sometimes granted to the dying, she said, "I can see better now! I can see better now!" and so passed on into the Light.

W. B.

The funeral services were held at the home Thursday conducted by her pastor, Dr. P. E. Marston. Music was by the College quartet. Bearers were Senator E. H. Hoyt, of Manchester, Dr. P. E. Somers, B. J. Ricker, S. J. Pooley, Fay Williams, of Shenandoah, and Fred Trainer of Ackley.

ELBERT

town.

Oct 17 - 1912

DEATH OF MRS. E. W. CLARK

Passes Away Tuesday Evening at
Eight O'Clock

The death of Mrs. Martha Cilley Clark comes as a personal loss to those who have been associated with her in the years of her usefulness in the city of Grinnell. Mrs. Clark has been an invalid for about a year and had an apoplectic stroke two weeks before her death, which came Tuesday evening.

Through all the years of her residence in this city Mrs. Clark has been prominent in religious and charitable work. She was the first lady that was ever elected to the school board and was, before that, a teacher in the schools. She was very prominent in the work of the Congregational church taking an especial interest in foreign missions. She was interested in numerous charities both public and private. A fitting obituary will be prepared by her friends for publication. She had reached the age of 65 years, eleven months and three days.

The funeral services were at the the house at two o'clock this afternoon, conducted by the pastor of the Congregational church.