

Miss Sadie Clark, An Early Settler, Dies

5-31-1935

Miss Sadie Clark died May 28 at Mount Clair, N. J., at the home of her niece, Mrs. Helen Manatt Bissell. She was a charter member of the State Historical club and prominent in the Congregational church. She was a sister of Mrs. Dr. Holyoke, one of the four founders of Grinnell. Her home for the last years of her life in Grinnell was cater-corner from the Methodist church.

OBITUARY

Additional word has been received in Grinnell as to the death of Miss Sadie Clark, May 28, 1935, in a letter from her niece, Mrs. Carrie Lawrence Peterson, of 1234 York Street, Des Moines.

Mrs. Peterson received a letter from her cousin Mrs. Arthur H. Bissell of 133 Wildwood Avenue, Upper Montclair, New Jersey, with whom Miss Clark made her home the last eight or ten years, saying, "Aunt Sarah had been in bed about two weeks but not in pain. I am so glad she could go peacefully, so quickly, as a lingering illness would have been trying to her who had always been pretty well and active."

Sarah E. Clark was the youngest child of Captain Nathaniel W. and Abigail Irené Clark who came to Grinnell in June 1855 in the second colony of pioneers from Searsport, Maine. Sarah was about four years old, and was one of the children to whom J. B. Grinnell said, as he lifted them from the wagon, "It is little girls like this that we need for our church and our college."

After her parents died she made her home with her sisters. First with her sister, Nancy Catherine and husband, Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Holyoke. Later with her sister Arletta and husband, Prof. and Mrs. I Irving Manatt, in Lincoln, Nebraska.

While Prof. Manatt was in Athens, Greece, as U. S. Consul, and Mrs. Manatt was with him there, Sarah took charge of the children at their home in Lincoln, pouring out such lavish affection and sympathy that to this day their term of endearment to her is, "dear little second mother."

The nephew, William Manatt, now of San Francisco, Calif., joined his parents in Greece; and soon Sarah took the little girls to Greece also, and remained with the family there for a considerable length of time. She kept a diary which gave a detailed account of those delightful days, and which afforded the family a much enjoyed memento.

On two occasions Miss Clark lived a year or more in Paris. About 1920, or a little later, she broke up her home at 1002 Park Street, Grinnell, and went to live with some of her nieces.

First she was with her sister Mrs. Manatt, at the home of Mrs. Manatt's daughter and family, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Bacon and children, Barbara, John and Helen, until Mrs. Manatt's death.

Then she went to her niece Helen Manatt Bissell, with whom she made her home continuously until her death except a year or so with Mrs. Bissell's sister Demeter and husband, Mr. and Mrs. Howard M. Hyde, also of New Jersey. Miss Clark's namesake, Sarah I. Manatt, visited her in Grinnell; later married, and went to China as the wife of a Missionary, Rev. William W. Cadbury. She preceded her aunt to the Heavenly Home. Faith Manatt, Mrs. Peter Greer, is another beloved niece.

Miss Clark survived all of her brothers and sisters. It was her special desire that the young cousins in the east and the young cousins in the west should know of each other, whether they might ever meet or not.

She is survived also by other nieces and nephews, the children, grandchildren and even great grandchildren of her brother Rodney W. Clark; of her sister Abbie, Mrs. Henry Lawrence; and of her sister Harriet, Mrs. George C. Butler.

The passing of Sarah Clark, at an age exceeding four score years, marks the conclusion of an outstandingly beautiful life of mutual devotion of aunt and nieces.

She who, as a young woman, had endeared herself to them, not only had the satisfaction of seeing them grow up to be talented, charming women, prominent in educational and social circles, but also received in her declining years their tender ministrations, and the devotion of the third generation also, Arthur, Faith, Helen and Marian Bissell.

Miss Clark was a faithful member of the Congregational church, tireless worker in the Women's Christian Temperance Union, a Charter member of the Reading Circle now known as the Historical-Literary Club of Grinnell; a loyal citizen of the town that grew with her from infancy to maturity.

Thru her maternal lineage she derived eligibility to membership in the Society of Mayflower Descendants, the Colonial Dames, and the Daughters of the American Revolution.