

# Mrs. Cleland Rites Sunday

1-10-1933

Funeral Services For Pioneer  
Woman Held From Ewart  
Church Sunday Afternoon

MRS. CLELAND BORN IN  
IRELAND, FEB. 23, 1842

Funeral One of Largest Ever  
Held in Ewart; Entire  
Community There.

Funeral services for Mrs. William Cleland ~~SP.~~ of Ewart, who passed away Friday, January 6, were held Sunday afternoon at two o'clock from the Presbyterian church in Ewart, conducted by the Rev. R. G. Smith, pastor of the church. The church ceremony was preceded by a short prayer service at the house.

The funeral was one of the largest ever held at Ewart, nearly the entire community turning out for the last rites of a pioneer settler of the community. Mrs. Cleland had reached the advanced age of 90 years, sixty-five of which were spent in this one community.

The Rev. Mr. Smith based his sermon on the twenty-third psalm, which was a favorite scripture passage of the deceased. Music was furnished by a mixed quartet consisting of the Rev. Mr. Smith, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Clifford Braley and Gus Wasson, with Mrs. Edna Jeffrey playing the accompaniment at the piano.

The Rev. W. J. Stewart offered prayer at the grave, followed by the benediction, pronounced by the Rev. Mr. Smith. Pall bearers, all neighbors of Mrs. Cleland and long-standing acquaintances were: Clifford Braley, Charles Peters, William Jeffrey, David Agnew, John Hamilton and Will Rutherford.

Sarah McKeag was born near Newtonards in County Down, Ireland, Feb. 23, 1842. At the age of 23 she came to the United States to join a sister who had preceded her to this country, settling among her relatives in Rock Island county, Illinois.

Christmas eve, 1867, she was united in marriage at Rock Island to William Cleland, also a native of County Down, who had sought his fortunes in the "new country". Mr. Cleland left the next day with a team and wagon to erect a home for his bride on the trackless prairie of Iowa. Mrs. Cleland followed him by train a short time later and thus the family home was established a mile and one half west of Ewart.

Six children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Cleland, the eldest dying in infancy. James, another son, died at Ewart in 1908 at the age of 34 years. Surviving her are Mrs. William Molison, of Malcom, Mrs. Margaret Hays, of Ewart, Mrs. E. O. Porter of Grinnell and W. G. Cleland, of Ewart, besides 10 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren.

Mrs. Cleland's death removes one of the few remaining pioneer residents of the county. Coming to Iowa when the prairie knew neither fence nor plow, she lived to see the great changes wrought by the airplane, automobile, radio and electricity, all daily witnessed from her rural home.

Mrs. Cleland acquired a love of books and poetry from her mother who was a well educated woman and she spent her declining years reading the works of Scott, Dickens, Burns and other authors. She also enjoyed sewing and fancy work and during the past year made many dainty handkerchiefs and towels which were distributed to neighbors, relatives and friends.

Ninety years failed to dim the mental activity of this pioneer. To the very last she maintained an active interest in community and church affairs and especially in the activities of the young people. Nothing pleased her more than to attend a social gathering where she might meet old friends and make new ones. Her last words were inquiries about the welfare of others.

The entire Ewart community, as well as relatives, feel that they have suffered an irreparable loss in the death of Mrs. Cleland.

(William)