

1932. November 22
GRINNELL HER.

Charles

Graduate Of 1875 Passes

Hannah Noyes Davidson Dies
The 27th of November at
Claremont, Cal.

We have received a copy of the Pomona, Cal. Progress Bulletin which tells of the death of an early graduate of Grinnell college and of her many activities as a scholar and a teacher. Hannah Noyes Davidson was a graduate in 1878 and a sister of Prof. W. A. Noyes of the University of Illinois, one of the best known scholars in the country.

While here as a young woman Miss Noyes was not only a teacher in the college but she occupied the position of lady principal more commonly known in these later days as dean of women. She was a rare scholar and lady.

Under the head, "Death Claims Noted Scholar" a dispatch from Claremont gives the story of her activities as follows: The paper was sent to the Herald by Mrs. Harriet Meacham.

Mrs. Hannah Amelia Noyes Davidson, who passed away Nov. 27 after a brief illness of a few days, was one of an unusually distinguished family of scholars in the realms of science and literature.

As advisor and counselor for many groups in the study of literature, Mrs. Davidson exerted wide influence in disseminating a knowledge of and a love for the finest in the world's literature. In demand as a speaker throughout Southern California, she met one study group only two weeks before her death, and outlined their year's work.

According to "Who's Who in America," Mrs. Davidson was a student of political finance and economics in the graduate department of the University of Minnesota 1885-86, a student of politics, finance, and economics at the University of California, graduate department, and of economics, history and politics in the University of Chicago during two summers.

"She was lecturer in literature, art, fiction and drama in Wellesley and Mt. Holyoke colleges and has been directing classes for study since 1902."

With Mr. Davidson, she taught for some time at the Belmont school near San Francisco, and while teaching history there she developed a university method for the study of history in secondary schools. This method later became crystallized in a "Reference History of the United States."

Among her many publications are "Literary Study for Busy People, the Gift of Genius;" ten books in the series edited and published by her giving directions for the study of the plays of Shakespeare and other literature; a critical study of "The House of Seven Gables," for which study she spent some time in Salem, locating there what she believed to be the original of Hawthorne's creation, and, with the aid of an architect, she prepared a plan of the house. She published a critical edition of the Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin, an edition of the historical plays of Shakespeare for the library at Wisconsin, and was chosen a member of the founders' chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, national scholastic honor-

ary fraternity, at Grinnell college. She edited the Autobiography and Memoirs of David Otis Mears.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Davidson spent their childhood and youth on Iowa farms, during pioneer days. Each lived in a New England home transferred to the Iowa prairies about the middle of the 19th century. Both received their early education in country or small town schools, and both received also their inspiration to a scholarly life at Iowa college, Grinnell.

Miss Noyes spent two of the four years of her college course teaching in the high school at Grinnell, doing a part of the college work by private study, at the same time, and passing examination on the subjects omitted. By means of the severe training in Latin, Greek, mathematics, and other studies of the classical course, she laid the foundation for accurate scholarship which characterized her later work.

Mr. Davidson, who passed away in Claremont in 1919, had a notable career as an educator, serving as professor of English at the University of Indiana and at Adelbert college of Western Reserve university, and as inspector of English for the University of New York, having control of examinations in high schools and professional schools.

A daughter, Enid Amella, passed away in infancy. Mrs. Davidson's two brothers, Dr. William A. Noyes and Dr. Edmund Noyes, are known for their scientific achievements.

Besides the two brothers, Mrs. Davidson is also survived by a sister, Miss Mary A. Noyes, who resides at the home, 709 College avenue.