

MRS. MELINDA DUFFEE.

Melinda Breeden, daughter of Jacob and Sarah Lockhart Breeden, was born near Versailles, Ind., on May 18, 1838, and died at her home in Grinnell, Iowa, on July 24, 1921, at the age of 83 years, two months and six days.

In Oct. 1865, she with her mother and sisters, Juliette Mitchell and Susan Thomas and Priscilla Burroughs and families came by immigrant wagons from Indiana to Hickory Grove, in Jasper county, Iowa, where she made her home for several years.

After her marriage to Rev. Howard Durfee she accompanied her husband on his travels as a pioneer minister and missionary in some of the most needy sections of Iowa. During that time they both gave freely and gladly their best in the way of service to those coming within their assigned territory.

Finding this work too strenuous for her they settled permanently in their home at Kellogg, Iowa. But as long as her strength would permit her hospitality was extended to all and especially to those interested in Christian work. Though naturally timid she bravely bore the loneliness and burdens of home life while her husband was away much of the time for years engaged in doing missionary and evangelistic work.

In the meantime she cared for an aged mother who spent her last years in her home. Though never a strong woman she cared for her husband through long months of illness which preceded his death. Also an aged sister received her kindly ministrations until death claimed her, the last remaining member of her household.

The high ideals and consecrated Christian spirit of her parents found continued expression in her life since early childhood, always contributing as far as possible to every worthy cause. When the affliction which caused her death developed she confided to no one of her friends her trouble feeling that any surgical assistance would at best bring only temporary relief and preferred to trust herself in the hands of Providence.

When she could no longer conceal her affliction she accepted the care and help of those nearest to her, and bore her sufferings with Christian fortitude to the end, thinking only of others.

Her church relations were for years with the United Brethren while her husband served that denomination, and later with the Free Methodist church which she was a member at the time of her death.

She leaves a large number of nephews and nieces and a host of friends to hold her in grateful mem-

(Howard)