

OBITUARY

Sept 4-17

Mrs. Talitha Harner

Poweshiek County Palladium: Another of our pioneer women has answered the final call. This time the summons came for Mrs. Talitha Harner. Some weeks ago, she went to Grinnell to visit her daughter and while there she was taken sick and after a brave struggle she succumbed to the inevitable on last Thursday morning.

Mrs. Harner was known to all our people and esteemed by everyone.

Talitha Bryan, daughter of Alan-son and Easter Bryan, was born in Green County, Ohio, Nov. 22, 1841, and passed away at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Ruth Gregson, in Grinnell, Iowa, August 23, 1917, aged 75 years, 9 months and 1 day. When eight years of age she came with her father's family to Iowa. In 1857 she was united in marriage to Samuel S. Roberts. Mr. Roberts was a Union soldier and died while a prisoner of war, having been wounded.

To this union four children were born. One son, Purcell, died in infancy; two sons, Andrew M. Roberts, of The Dalles, Oregon, and D. M. Roberts of Ewart, and one daughter, Mrs. Ruth Gregson, of Grinnell, survive her. She was united in marriage with Mr. Andrew Harner Dec. 18, 1879. Mr. Harner died on Dec. 28, 1881.

Mrs. Harner was a member of the Montezuma Methodist Episcopal church, and was loyal in her support and faithful in Christian service. She maintained a strong interest in the Christian Home Orphanage at Council Bluffs, giving of her means and time in its support. Mrs. Harner met with an accident when about ten years of age which resulted in her being crippled and compelled to use a crutch. In spite of this handicap she did her own work and carried her share of life's burdens. In addition to her children, she leaves to mourn her decease, three brothers, John and Dennis Bryan, of Montezuma, and Nervi Bryan, of Alameda, Cal., also ten grandchildren and fourteen great grandchildren.

Brief funeral services were held at the home of her daughter in Grinnell and further services in the Methodist church at Montezuma on Saturday afternoon, conducted by Rev. Geo. Blagg, assisted by Rev. R. A. Arms, of Ewart. Interment was made in the Masonic and I. O. O. F. cemetery.

(ANDREW)

MRS. TALITHA HARNER.

And Andrew Harner
1st. Samuel Roberts

Mrs. Talitha Harner is a representative of one of the old and honored pioneer families of Poweshiek county and has lived in this part of the state since a little maiden of eight summers, having for sixty-two years been a witness of all the changes that have occurred in transforming the wild prairie land into productive and fertile farms dotted here and there with thriving towns and prosperous villages. She was born in Greene country, Ohio, November 22, 1841, a daughter of Alanson and Easter (Mendenhall) Bryan, of whom extended mention is made in connection with the history of Bedy Bryan on another page of this volume.

The family arrived in Iowa in 1849, settling about three miles northeast of Oskaloosa, and upon the home farm there Mrs. Harner resided until her marriage. She was carefully trained in the duties of the household and was, therefore, well qualified to take charge of a home of her own when in March, 1857, she became the wife of Samuel S. Roberts, who was born in Indiana in 1834 and in early manhood came to Iowa with his brother, settling in Mahaska county. They began their domestic life in Poweshiek county, settling on a farm which her father had entered and gave to her. It was a tract of one hundred and twenty acres in Pleasant township, seven miles northwest of Montezuma. Mr. Roberts continued the cultivation of that place until Decem-

ber, 1863, when he felt that his first duty was to his country and enlisted from Montezuma under Captain Campbell in Company B, Fortieth Iowa Volunteer Infantry. He was wounded at Okolona, Arkansas, April 3, 1864, and was taken prisoner. Later he was recaptured by his own company, but was again taken prisoner at Camden, Arkansas, all this occurring within twenty-four hours. As he was unable to ride horseback he could not get away and his brother was obliged to leave him. The lack of attention and the treatment which he received in prison as well as his wounds caused his death on the 29th of June, 1864. His comrade, Conrad Blewer, who was also a prisoner at the same time, reported to his widow the circumstances and details of his demise. They were the parents of four children: Andrew M., now of Oregon; Dennis M., of Pleasant township; Pertzell E., who died at the age of one and one-half years; and Ruth A. J., the wife of John E. Gregson, of Grinnell. Mrs. Harner has eleven grandchildren living and six great-grandchildren.

After the death of her first husband she left the farm in Pleasant township in March, 1864, and removed to Montezuma where she spent one year. She then went to her father's farm in Oskaloosa and resided there until 1869. In that year she returned to Poweshiek county and in 1877 again took up her abode upon the old home farm in Pleasant township. In December, 1879, she was again married, becoming the wife of Andrew Harner, who was born in Virginia, June 16, 1814, and when three years of age was taken by his parents to Ohio where he was reared and educated and began farming. In the spring of 1837 he went to Indiana where he also carried on agricultural pursuits, and in 1855 he arrived in Poweshiek county, Iowa. By a previous marriage he had six children. After he married Mrs. Roberts they lived upon his farm, which was situated two and one-half miles from Montezuma. He died December 26, 1883.

After being again left a widow Mrs. Harner returned to her old home in Pleasant township, and for twenty-one years she made her home with her children and friends. Seven years ago, however, in February, 1904, she purchased her present home in Montezuma and sold her farm to her daughter. She is comfortably situated in life and not only has a sufficient amount of this world's goods to supply her with the necessities but also with the luxuries of life, and, moreover, has a large circle of warm friends who regard her most kindly.