

Nancy Holyoke

12/29/1786 - 12/24/1886

12-22 IN MEMORIAM. 1886

Mrs. Nancy C. Holyoke, wife of the late Dr. Thomas Holyoke, died at her home in this city, at 6 o'clock p. m., on the 24th inst., reaching the age of 56 years had she lived to the 29th of this month. Her disease was inflammation of the stomach.

Dr. Wm. F. Holyoke, the eldest son, residing in Los Angeles, did not reach home before the mother's death. The other two sons, Dr. Edward L., of Lincoln, Neb., and Dr. R. A. Holyoke, of Pacific Junction, Iowa, reached home some days since.

After brief services at the house, by general request of friends, the remains were brought to the church, in charge of Mr. R. M. Kellogg, and the pall bearers were, C. H. Spencer, Prof. B. J. Buck, W. S. Leisure, D. W. Norris, Rev. J. M. Chamberlain and Frank Wyatt. The early settlers occupied the body of the church, and a quartet composed of Messrs. Walker and Ayer, Mrs. Christian and Miss Howell, with Miss Bosworth at the organ, furnished music for the occasion; Prof. L. A. Phelps of Chicago, being present, sang a funeral dirge. Dr. Magoun and the pastor spoke briefly as friend and pastor and conducted the services. Mr. Grinnell made an address, the substance of which is here given in a biographical sketch.

ADDRESS BY HON. J. B. GRINNELL.

When the prophet Samuel died, "all the Israelites gathered together and lamented him." It is near ten years since our people were in mourning for the honored pioneer and beloved Christian physician, Thomas Holyoke. To-day we are moved by the kindred griefs and solemnities of that occasion in the death of the wife of him who was a worthy companion on an eventful pilgrimage, which ended at the setting of the sun on Christmas eve, completing a life of 56 years, lacking five days.

Miss Nancy C. Clark was a native of Searaport, Mo., and an attractive, vivacious lady, who at the age of 18 years became the wife of Dr. Holyoke, a practitioner of education and skill, in her native town. In this city in 1834, he was a surveyor; of the first to build a home, and held a most honorable relation to our society in its formative, financial, college and church history, and in all the service of a quarter of a century, found a worthy companion in her for whom we mourn to-day.

It was my fortune to be the company of Mrs. Holyoke and Mrs. Anna Bixby with their infant boys from Iowa City to the grove near where their husbands were erecting the first rude cabin. That acquaintance brought me inspiration and secured an admiration for heroism which fostered friendship, ripening through all the joys and adversities of thirty-two years. Mrs. Holyoke was a joint laborer and singer at our first out-door grove meeting at Oakley's. Her musical taste was welcome in church services at the "long-home" and in her own home and church but not less welcome than a teacher in the first Sabbath school. Of the twenty names composing the first congregational church organized in 1835, is to be found here now called, of a majority of that little band who have crossed the river. If there are more conspicuous persons, of whose habits and health allowed for service, I can think of none so constant and devoted to the purposes in founding this settlement.

Nancy Holyoke

The Signal - Grinnell

Jan 1, 1887

Another Pioneer Gone.

Mrs. Nancy C. Holyoke, wife of the late Dr. Thos. Holyoke, died at her home in this city on Friday last, the 24th inst. at the age of 56 years. Funeral services were held at the Congregational church, and largely attended by the old residents of the city. After remarks by the pastor and by Dr. Magoun. Hon. J. B. Grinnell delivered a touching eulogy and biographical sketch of the life of the honored dead.