

Pioneer Passes to Great Beyond

6-18-1929

**Mrs. Peter Martin, Loved And Worthy
Early Resident Dies At Searsboro
After Long Illness.**

Peter
Martin
Mary Agnes Murphy was born on December 8, 1859, in Louisa County, near Muscatine, and came with her parents to Mahaska County, when a little over a year old. The family moved by team from near Muscatine, to a house in Sugar Grove neighborhood, where they lived until a pioneer home could be built on the prairie land two miles north and a little west of New Sharon. This land her father purchased from the U. S. Government at one dollar and twenty five cents per acre. Here she grew to young womanhood, helping her parents in every way with the tasks of home making, always willing and ready to assist her parents.

She was married to Peter Martin at the Catholic Church in Searsboro, April 27, 1898, and lived all her married life in Searsboro, ever a kind neighbor and friend. To this union were born two daughters and a son, Marie, Agnes, and Louie. She was also a true and faithful mother to the three motherless little boys, Ed, John and Frank who came under her care after her marriage, always giving to them the same loving care that she gave her own three children. Not only did she give care and kindness to her step children, but when her step grand children needed a mother's care, they too were taken into her heart and home and they all have shown their appreciation by their kindness and thoughtfulness of her in her last sickness. Her last sickness had been long drawn out. Nine years ago it was discovered that cancer, the deadly enemy of human life, had fastened its fangs into her system. All that loving hands and medical skill could do, was done, but nothing could stay the grim monster death. She was patient and cheerful through it all, resigned and willing to leave all in the hands of Him, who does all

things well. She passed away Monday morning, June 10, 1929, at 6:55 aged 69 years, 6 months, and 2 days. At 10:00 Wednesday, June 12, High Mass was held in St. Brendan's Church in Searsboro, by Rev. M. J. Hannon, the pastor. Father Hannon's sermon gave a glowing tribute to Mrs. Martin's unselfish life, her devotion to her family, loyalty to her church and country. He spoke of her friendliness and kindness to the priests, who came to hold services in the Searsboro church, and of her kindness to everyone. She was a good Christian and a practical Catholic, practicing and professing her religion at all times, ever a model to all who knew her. Father Hannon gave a beautiful explanation of the Catholic doctrine of prayer for the dead, showing that it was a practice of olden times,—that it is a truly wholesome thought to pray for the dead, a beautiful doctrine and well founded. His sermon was a source of deep comfort to the sorrowing family, and a wonderful inspiration to every one hearing it.

Mrs. Martin is survived by her devoted husband and six children: Agnes, Louie, Marie (Mrs. Orville Gilbert), Ed., John, and Frank, who in loving solicitude ministered to her with touching devotion, and who will hallow her memory in prayerful remembrance. She also leaves one brother, John Murphy, of Minneapolis, Minn., nine grandchildren, and a host of relatives and friends. Interment was made in Calvary Cemetery, Searsboro, the final blessing at the grave being given by Rev. M. J. Hannon. Pallbearers were: Paul Sheehy, Leo Devereux, Pierce and Alexander Comerford, Leo Flanagan and James Higdon.

In her death, the community loses one of its worthy pioneer women, one whose good deeds will live after her.