

MONTGOMERY SERVICES SET

(The Register's Iowa News Service)

GRINNELL, IA. — Memorial services for Dr. Royal J. Montgomery, 86, former superintendent of the



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Congregational Christian Conference of Iowa, will be at 2 p. m. Thursday at the First Congregational Church here.

Dr. Montgomery died Saturday at a Grinnell hospital.

A burial service will be at 11 a. m. today at Hazelwood Cemetery here.

He was a resident of Grinnell's Mayflower Home, a Congregational retirement home that was founded as a result of the efforts of Dr. Montgomery. He retired as executive director of the home in 1957.

Youth Work

He served 19 years as director of religious education and youth work for the Congregational conference (now the Iowa Conference of the United Church of Christ) before beginning his nine years as superintendent in 1938.

Before his service as an Army chaplain in World War I, in which he was wounded, Dr. Montgomery's pastorates included the Congregational Church in Red Oak. He also served briefly as pastor for Congregational students at Iowa State University, Ames.

Wife Survives

A native of Illinois, he was a graduate of the University of Kansas and Chicago Theological Seminary.

Surviving is his third wife, Helen, whom he married in 1961. His first two wives preceded him in death.

Dr. Royal Montgomery, Religious Leader, Dies

Dr. Royal J. Montgomery, 86, a resident of Mayflower Home, died Saturday afternoon at a local hospital following an extended illness.

Funeral services will be held Thursday at 2 p. m. from the First Congregational church (UCC) with Dr. Judson E. Flebiger, the Rev. Newell E. Davis, the Rev. Ralph Beebe, and Harris Stafford officiating. Interment will be in Hazelwood cemetery with the James Schalinske Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

The Montgomery Memorial has been established at Mayflower Home for those who may wish to contribute to it.

The son of Alexander and Marlon Montgomery, he was born July 5th, 1879, at Ownaco, Ill. In 1885, his parents moved to Smith Center, Kans., where he received his elementary education and graduated from Smith Center high school in 1897. He received his bachelor of arts degree from Kansas State University in 1903. After two years in business, he entered Chicago Theological Seminary from which he received his bachelor of divinity degree in 1908.

He served as pastor at the Congregational churches in Maywood, Ill., Detroit Lakes, Minn., Red Oak, Iowa, and served the Congregational students at I. S. U. in Ames for four months. In April of 1918 he enlisted in the U. S. Army and served as chaplain of the 309th Infantry Division in World War I. He was wounded in action in the Argonne on Oct. 17th, 1918, and was hospitalized for four months. He received a citation for practical service to troops beyond the chaplain's regular duties.



Dr. Royal Montgomery

Sept. 1st, 1919, he became director of religious education and youth work for the Congregational Christian Conference of Iowa, serving in that assignment for 16 years, developing conference and association camps for youth. In 1938 he was elected superintendent of the Congregational Christian Conference of Iowa, serving three terms for a total of nine years. He also served for two years as secretary of the Midwest Pastoral Relations Bureau.

After his first retirement he set a new task for himself, which resulted in another facet of his career—the building of Mayflower Home. With the assistance of his late wife, Margaret, funds were raised and the home built. The first unit was dedicated in June of 1953, which was named Montgomery Hall, and three more units have since been added, the last one being dedicated in 1963.

He was married to Bertha Kemp

on Aug. 21st, 1901, who preceded him in death in 1934. In March of 1937 he was united in marriage with Margaret Ahlborn, who preceded him in death in 1957. On Oct. 14th, 1961, he was married to Helen M. Nelson, who survives him.

He received the honorary degree as doctor of divinity from Yabon College in 1922 and also from Grinnell College in 1948. During the Grinnell Centennial observance he was given a citation for community service.