

# A Grinnell Pioneer Woman Passes On

## Mrs. Sarah Little Mack Dies at Middletown, Conn., After Life of Service To Grinnell.

Grinnell has been the home of many wonderful women. Some have surpassed in one line of endeavor and some in others. Among those who stand foremost in the minds of older residents of this city, the name of Mrs. S. E. Mack will always be held in rarest memory. No one ever held a deeper devotion for this city and its people than she and none has given more of their time and their courage to advance its interests along lines of beauty and usefulness.

Mrs. Mack first came to Grinnell in 1868. In 1881 the family moved to Colorado and in 1887 they returned to this city and here she has claimed her residence for the last forty-two years.

Mrs. Mack's great work for Grinnell was done in the period between 1887 and 1906. She was a bundle of untiring nerves. She worked and planned to build up the best interests of the city. She was one of the most devoted founders of the Ladies Cemetery Association. In her work in that organization as well as in the church and in social clubs none ever gave more freely of time and none ever worked with a more steadfast purpose to accomplish the end they sought. She never overreached. Notwithstanding her courage and determination she was able to secure the interest and co-operation of all, because they had confidence in her judgment.

Those are some of the good things which can be said of one of the most devoted women this town has ever had in its citizenship. It seems to us that too much can not be said for the high quality of her character and for her excellent leadership.

Notwithstanding her work for the community she was devoted to her family. She loved them with all the devotion of a mother's love and she taught them that Grinnell's interests were their interests and that duty lay along the line of accomplishing something for the good of the people among whom they lived.

Mrs. Mack was a musician. She loved music. Her daughters were musicians and Minnie Mack during her residence here, after she had become a graduate in music, gave most beautifully of her talent and her strength to entertain the city which was her home. She became a music teacher of wonderful power as well as a musician who ranked among the highest. Her death was a blow to her mother, but the gentle memory she left to her friends helped to overcome the force of her mother's great sorrow.

Mrs. Mack was not only a woman of intelligent leadership but after the death of her husband she showed that she had all the qualities of a successful business career.

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The senior of the Herald recalls well one time in the 90's when she was at the height of her successful activity he nominated her in The Grinnell Herald for mayor not because she could accept the office for women were not then allowed to hold that position, but because the wonderful variety of her talents, her determination and her position had made her one of the marked public spirited citizens of this place.

When the Mack family returned to Grinnell in 1887 they reunited with the Congregational church which they had left in 1881 to unite with a church in Colorado. Since that time she remained a member of her home church. When she went to Middletown, Conn. several years ago to make her home with her daughter, Mrs. W. A. Heidel she could not bear to take a letter to any church in her new home. She was wedded to Grinnell and she was wedded to the church which she had served with untiring zeal and which had been her Christian home for so many years.

At the funeral, passages of scripture were read by Dr. Bolt, the address being given by her former pastor and friend, Dr. Vittum.

Bearers were Ferd Kiesel, Judge A. C. Lyon, W. G. Ray, Dr. P. E. Somers, John S. Nollen and H. W. Norris.

The body of Mrs. Mack was accompanied to Grinnell by her daughter Mrs. W. A. Heidel and Mrs. Heidel's son, Warren Heidel. Mrs. Grace McGee Coast of Iowa City, an early friend of Minnie Mack, came to be present at the funeral.

Sarah E. Mack, daughter of Warrar Little and Sarah Landers Little, was born in New Marlboro, Mass., March 7 1845, and died in Middletown, Conn. March 27, 1929.

She taught school when a young girl in Madison, Conn.

She married Amos B. Mack in 1868 at Lenox, Mass. They moved west to Ohio and later to Grinnell, Iowa, in 1868. Pioneers in Iowa, they again in 1882 moved to Canon City, Colo. and later to Salida, Colo. In this new town, Mrs. Mack raised the money for a church which was built and in which she played her folding melodeon as she had done in Ohio.

Their next move was to Boston for the education of their children and in 1887 back again to the old home in Grinnell. Her husband died in 1906 and she carried on his business for

time with Ferd Kiesel who had been in Grinnell. Her husband died in 1906. Mrs. Mack moved to Middletown Conn., where she lived with frequent intervals of travel until her death.

In Grinnell sacrifices stand out of the early days when women went without winter coats in order to build a church.

The starting of the Ladies Cemetery Association and greenhouse was an outstanding achievement of which she was the prime mover.