

The Grinnell Herald

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IS SINCERELY MOURNED

Hugh McIlrath, One of Grinnell's Respected Residents, Died Sunday Night. 6-8-1919

FUNERAL TOMORROW
MORNING AT 10 O'CLOCK

Burial Will Be at Laurel Near Which
Place He Lived for Twenty
Years.

Grinnell lost a good citizen when Hugh McIlrath passed away Sunday night at 12:30 o'clock at his home, 1114 West street. For a long time Mr. McIlrath has been a sufferer from cancer of the stomach. Last January he underwent an operation in Rochester, Minn., and improved for a time but later the trouble once more fastened itself upon him and he grew gradually weaker until the end came. The funeral will be held on Wednesday morning at 10 o'clock from the home. The body will be taken to Laurel for interment.

Mr. McIlrath passed his eightieth birthday the first of last April. 1837
Hugh McIlrath was born in County Antrim, Ireland, and was married in the old country in 1861, to Elizabeth Paul, who has been his faithful and devoted wife all the years since then and survives him. He came to this country in 1865 with his wife and three children and they settled first on a farm near Davenport, where they lived for five years. Then they moved to the home farm south of Laurel, in Jasper county, where for the next twenty years the family home was to be.

In 1900 Mr. McIlrath left the farm and moved to Grinnell, in order that his children might take advantage of the educational opportunities offered here. Here his home has been ever since and he has won the esteem of his townspeople by his many sturdy and manly qualities.

Besides his wife, nine of his twelve children survive him, three daughters having preceded him in death. There are seven sons, John, Robert and Samuel, of the Laurel vicinity, James of Montezuma, Thomas of Grinnell, Wm of Canada, and George of Kansas City, and two daughters, Mrs. Sam Parker of Newburg and Hannah, at home. There are also two sisters, Mrs. Mary Nichol of Grinnell and Mrs. Grace Paul in Ireland.

Last Wednesday, knowing that the end was not far off, Mr. McIlrath expressed the wish to have a last family dinner and his wish was carried out. All the children were there and he expressed his satisfaction that before he went he was able to see all his boys established in comfortable circumstances, useful citizens of their respective communities.

Mr. McIlrath lived for his home. The welfare of his wife and children was the great passion of his life. He will always be remembered as a loyal husband, a wise and loving father, a true friend.

Mr. McIlrath's life story is one of success built from nothing. When he started farming he was poor; in fact had nothing at all. At his death Mr. McIlrath owned over 1,000 acres of as fine farm land as Iowa produces, situated in the three counties of Marshall, Jasper and Poweshiek. Some of the land is worth \$300 or more per acre.

After the McIlraths came to Jasper county they determined to buy some land, and went into debt for a quarter section south of Laurel, which they were able to buy for \$12 per acre. This was in February, 1876. They worked hard, as did their older children, with the result that they not only paid for the quarter section but kept on adding more. A few years ago Mr. McIlrath owned 1,136 acres of farm land in the three counties, 496 of which were in Marshall, 480 in Jasper and .60 in Poweshiek.