

G. H. GRINNELL, IOWA, T

Was One Of The Pioneers

May 14, 1929

Mrs. Charles F. Renaud Died Last
Week at Lynnvillle, Aged
80 Years

CAME TO THIS COMMUNITY
BEFORE SHE WAS TWENTY

Her First Husband, Albert Gifford,
Broke Sod on Prairie Farm
In Chester

(By a Staff Correspondent)

Lynnvillle, Ia., May 14, Special:
Mary Jane Smith, daughter of
John and Elizabeth Smith, was born
in the city of Blackburne, England,
March 10, 1849, and departed this
life May 8, 1929, aged 80 years, 1
month and 28 days.

When about 18 years of age, she
came to America to work in the
cotton and woolen mills of Holyoke,
Mass. She was engaged in this
work only a comparatively short
time when, with some others, she
came to Iowa at a time when Iowa
was covered with prairie grass.

At 20 years of age, she was mar-
ried to Albert Gifford, who died
in 1875 and who broke up the
prairie on the farm in the old
Chester neighborhood which farm
she had retained throughout her
life. To this union were born two
boys, Walter, who died at the age
of 2 years, and A. T. Gifford of
Lynnvillle.

A little over a year after the
death of Albert Gifford or about
1876, she was married to Charles
F. Renaud. To this union were
born 6 boys and two girls: Willet
of Long Beach, California; George
of Beloit, California; Omer, Willis,
Alphonso, Elmer and Avis of Lynn-
ville; and Laura who died when two
years old.

For the past sixteen years, she
has been a loving mother to her
grandson Ward, whose mother died
when he was only three years old
and to whom "Grandma" has meant
the same as Mother.

In addition to these she leaves
to mourn her loss twelve grand-
children and one great granddaugh-
ter.

Much the greater part of her life
was spent on the farm in the Ches-
ter neighborhood where she was
for many years leading singer in
the little old Chester church. Her
great Easter song "He is Risen,
He is not Here" was called for
time after time as a most fitting
part of the Easter service each year.

In the early summer of 1907
retired from the farm and came to
live in Lynnvillle where she had
lived continuously ever since ex-
cepting one year at Montour, Iowa.

While still a young girl, she
united with the Methodist church,
and after she came west, she trans-
ferred to the Friends church of
which she was a loyal member.

During her closing days, she was
a close student of the Bible and
every evening at twilight, she could
be found reading from the Holy
Writ from which she seemed to
take great joy and comfort.

Loving and kind, loyal and true,
always firm for the right in what-
ever she did. It may be truthfully
said of her, "She hath done what
she could."

Funeral services were held at the
Friends Church Sunday afternoon,
with a large company of friends
and relatives gathered to pay their
last respects. Supt. M. T. Menden-
hall of Oskaloosa brought the mes-
sage, using as his text "She hath
done what she could." He was
assisted in the services by the local
pastor, Rev. L. W. Reynolds. Ap-
propriate selections were sung by
Mrs. Leo Davis, Mrs. Harvey Gause,
Rev. L. W. Reynolds and Harlan
Meredith with Mrs. A. F. Quire
at the piano. Pallbearers were the
five sons present, A. T. Gifford,
Alphonso, Willis, Omer, Elmer and
a grandson, Cheldon Renaud. Many
beautiful floral offerings banked
the front of the room. Interment
was in the Woodland cemetery.