

Thursday, October 8, 1964

Services Held Here Today For Mrs. Edna Pooley

Mrs. S. J. (Edna) Pooley, 88, of Mason City, a longtime Grinnell resident, died at Mason City Tuesday.

She had been a resident of Grinnell for many years before moving to Mason City a few years ago.

Memorial services were held this afternoon (Thursday) from the First Congregational church here with the pastor, the Rev. Robert Dewey, officiating.

She was born at Rockford, Ia., on April 17, 1876, and attended the Rockford schools and Grinnell college. On July 7, 1920, she was united in marriage with S. J. Pooley, who survives.

Also surviving are two stepsons, John W. Pooley of Duluth, Minn., and S. R. Pooley of Des Moines; and four nephews, Roger C. Patton, Willis Patton, and Dr. Draper Long, all of Mason City, and Bradford Patton of Florida.

Preceding her in death were four sisters, Mrs. W. E. Long and Mrs. W. L. Patton, both of Mason City; Mrs. L. S. Button of Outlook, Sask., Canada, and Miss Clara Lyon of Rockford; and two brothers, Arthur Lyon of Grinnell and George Lyon of Minneapolis, Minn.

While she lived in Grinnell, Mrs. Pooley was an active member of the P.E.O., Entre Nous club, and the First Congregational church.

Samuel J.

GRINNELL, IOWA, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1917

In Appreciation of Mrs. S. J. Pooley

The sudden death of Mrs. S. J. Pooley brought genuine grief to many friends and acquaintances in Grinnell and the towns nearby with which she had been identified as a resident, for her friendships extended in wide circles, including a host of college associates, as well as a very great number of our townspeople and others outside of this immediate vicinity.

Mrs. Pooley was truly loved and adored by those who knew her. During the years of her college training she was recognized as an independent, vigorous thinker and as one possessing the strength of character, charm and magnetism of a natural leader.

In her own home she was a wife and mother with rare devotion and beauty of spirit. For many years also in her Grinnell home she ministered unceasingly to an invalid sister and a crippled mother, never failing in allegiance to her college and community responsibilities. She fully deserved the honor bestowed by her friends. Her maturer life has gone into the social and spiritual upbuilding of our city, and it will remain an influence for high aims and noble achievements.

Mrs. Pooley had repeatedly served on the executive board of the Alumni association of Grinnell college. For several years had been a director of the Ladies' Education society, and was one of the list of alumni elected to membership in the Phi Beta Kappa chapter soon after the granting of a charter to the college here.

She was a member of the Congregational church, and in its interests was a loyal worker to the extent of her ability.

At the time of her death she was president of the Woman's Foreign Missionary society of this church and a member of the State W. B. M. I. executive board.

In social activities likewise she had a large part, being ever ready to cooperate in neighborhood, club and philanthropic civic enterprises.

She was a member of the Tuesday Club and of the Art Study class. Red Cross work had been constantly on her heart.

Lillian Patten was born near Colfax, Iowa, March 22, 1874. Her childhood was spent in Colfax. Later the family moved to Newton, where she graduated from the high school. The year following her graduation was spent with relatives in Pennsylvania. In the early nineties educational advantages brought the Patten family to Grinnell. Mrs. Pooley graduated from Grinnell college with the class of 1897, and was married the next spring to S. J. Pooley. From the time of their marriage the Pooley home has been in Grinnell.

A simple, beautiful memorial service was held Sunday afternoon at the family home on High street. A very large gathering of friends assembled to join with the relatives in paying tributes of affection and appreciation to a significant life.

Choice flowers in unusual abundance bore witness to the sympathy

and esteem which many wished to express.

Professor Charles Noble and Rev. E. M. Vittum were in charge of the service. A quartet composed of Miss Helen Thomson, Miss Margery Warren, Mr. Fred Morrison and Mr. George Walker sang the hymn.

"How firm a foundation,
Ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith
In His excellent word."

Mr. Vittum read a prophetic passage of Scripture, the closing verses of the twenty-first chapter of Revelation.

Mr. Noble spoke from the consoling text in St. John: "Let not your hearts be troubled, ye believe in God," emphasizing the thought that a memorial service is not alone for prayer or to offer comfort and sympathy, but more truly to reaffirm belief in immortality, for "Death is swallowed up in victory." Though the body perish, the soul is not dead—it is still here. The mystery of the sacrifice of such a lovely and needed life is not to be explained, but immortality is our hope and assurance. Our comfort is the realization of what a friend has been and that the immortal spirit can abide with us.

A letter recently received from E. W. Cross, now in France with the army Y. M. C. A., brought a message which was read as peculiarly appropriate for this time of sorrow: "Robert Louis Stevenson is right when he says that it is better to come to an end like a mountain torrent foaming over a precipice than to gwindle away in a delta. Well, we can't choose how to finish, but we can choose how to live with all our might while we do live."

Mr. Noble then spoke in a personal way of Mrs. Pooley as a stimulating friend and student in the class room. We can speak with thankfulness of the life which has been, and with faith in God's love we may say "Hail!" while we say "Farewell!" to such a friend.

Mr. Vittum's prayer was one in which every friend present could join—a prayer of spiritual trust and solace.

After the hymn, "At Eventide Let There Be Light," Mr. Noble read one of Mrs. Pooley's favorite selections, which seemed to be a direct message from her:

"Lie down and sleep—
Leave it with God to keep
This sorrow which is part
Now of thy heart.
When thou dost wake,
If still 'tis thine to take,
Utter no wild complaint.
Work waits thy hands,
If thou shouldst faint.
God understands."

A large company of friends gathered with the family about the grave in Hazelwood cemetery, when the hymn, "My Faith Looks Up to Thee," was sung and a prayer offered by Mr. Noble.

Mrs. Pooley has left to her husband, her little daughter and three sons, the rich gift of inspiring memories.