

UESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1922.

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KINDLY LIFE ENDED

After fifty-three years of useful life in Grinnell death claimed its own Friday, Dec. 16th, at 11 o'clock p. m., when the angel called and bore to the home above the spirit of Mrs. S. J. Preston, who was but two months short of eighty-five years of age.

Mary Augusta Lagrange, daughter of Joseph and Mary Lagrange, was born at New Scotland, New York, Feb. 23, 1837. In 1851 she came west with her parents, traveling west up the Erie canal and Great Lakes and across the Illinois prairie by covered wagon and team in true pioneer fashion. Here her parents located on a farm near Pleasant Valley, in Scott county, Iowa. Here she grew into womanhood and on March 28, 1858, she was married to Samuel Jackson Preston, and made her home on a farm in Scott county over eleven years. In 1869 Mr. and Mrs. Preston and their children moved to Grinnell, where they completed fifty-five years of happy and devoted married life, before Mr. Preston's death in 1913. Four children were born to them, Mary Alma who died in infancy, and Mamie who died at the age of fifteen. Two survive, Mrs. Carrie Preston Proctor of San Rafael, Calif., and Harry F. of Grinnell.

During Mr. Preston's long life in Grinnell he was recognized as one of its sterling citizens, a real hustler, enterprising, wide awake and generous, a man whose aid was sought in all local enterprises requiring public spirit, a man who gave freely of time, money and advice. He served long and faithfully on the city council and was a leading spirit in the growth of the city. In all activities for town and community he received loyal support from his loyal and loving wife.

In 1882, during the pastorate of Rev. J. M. Sturtevant, Mrs. Preston united with the Congregational church and continued loyally in its fellowship until her death. Since her husband's death her home has been with her son, Harry, who with his true hearted wife, has done all to make her closing years peaceful and happy ones. Her death came almost unannounced, peacefully and without pain Friday evening.

Notwithstanding the quiet beauty of her private life, Mrs. Preston possessed a strong determination to be useful—and not a burden to others, this characteristic being shown even to the hour of her death. Tho she felt a weakening on the afternoon of the day of her death she steadfastly refused to go to her bed until the usual time, fearing she would become a burden, and so passed to her rest with her mind clear and her will and devotion strong.

Of three brothers and a sister, two brothers survive her, Will Lagrange of Canon City, Colo., and Charles Lagrange, of Indianapolis, Ind., the sister, Mrs. J. W. Olds, and a brother, James, having passed on. Besides her children, Carrie and Harry, there are living four grandchildren. Mrs. Grant Ramsey of Grinnell, Mrs. Helen Proctor Rust of Ft. Dodge, Mrs. Alma Proctor Knapp of Santa Rosa, Calif., and Paul Proctor of Davenport. There are also three great-grandchildren, Frederic, John and Elizabeth Ramsey.

Funeral services were held at the home Sunday afternoon, conducted by her pastor, Rev. E. W. Cross, who spoke kindly and lovingly of the character of the deceased woman. Her grandson, Paul Proctor, sang with his well-known beautiful voice Cardinal Newman's great hymn, "Lead, Kindly Light." Bearers were J. P. Skinner, Jonas A. Anderson, Geo. H. Hamlin, W. C. Rayburn, S. J. Pooley and Roy Bates.

Burial was by the side of her husband in Hazelwood.

Present at the funeral from out of town were Paul Proctor and wife of Davenport, and Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Rust of Ft. Dodge. Her daughter, Carrie Proctor, of San Rafael, has been in poor health for some time and is now in a hospital at Berkeley, Calif.

The passing of a pioneer is a thing to be noted with kindly thoughts and with reverent mind, and especially is this true when the one who has gone is one of noble cast and high ideals. A kindly, modest lady, Mrs. Preston has nevertheless woven a worthy life into the history of our city and her circle of friends grew stronger in her affection from day to day. She retained to a remarkable degree the spirit of her youth and the younger friends who gathered at the home of her son and his wife were her friends because she could join them in their spirit of buoyancy, hope and cheer. She retained her membership to the last in the Rest and Recreation club and enjoyed its privileges and cheer to the last. Her great merit is shown by the love she retained for her children and by the devotion they showed for her throughout the lengthening years of her beautiful life. In her passing Grinnell loses a worthy woman and her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren a true friend and mother.

Samuel
Jack 5/27