

### IOWA PIONEER PASSES.

G-# 3-27-1923  
Early Honored Resident of Grinnell  
Dies at Los Angeles, Calif., at  
Rare Old Age.

Sylvester S. Preston was born in "Old Vermont among the hills" on December 7th, 1832, and died at his home in Los Angeles, Calif., March 19th, 1923, at the age of ninety years, three months and twelve days.

He received his early education in the common schools of his native state, prepared for college at Stafford Academy and entered Dartmouth College in 1851. He worked his way through the Academy and in college by teaching during the winter months and in civil engineering work. While engaged in engineering he assisted in locating the first railroad through Knoxville and Galesburg, Ill.

During his senior year at Dartmouth his health failed, compelling him to leave college without graduating and take up outdoor life.

Mr. Preston was married to Amelia Wilde in 1856 and came West, locating at Newton in Jasper county, Iowa, coming by stage from Iowa City to the then terminus of the old Mississippi and Missouri River Railroad. He engaged in farming until the beginning of the Civil War, enduring with his young wife and small children all the privations and hardships of pioneer farm life. He volunteered for service in the Union army in 1861 but because of poor health was rejected. But he did his bit in the Union cause by service in connection with the commissary department of the army. Two brothers, Col. S. M. Preston and Capt. F. W. Preston served in the Union army. At the close of the war he returned to Iowa and operated a farm between Newton and Kellogg until 1870 when he removed to Grinnell. Here he engaged in mercantile business until about 1885. Here he raised and educated his large family of children. A son, A. L. Preston, and a daughter, Mrs. Myrta Burlew, graduated from Grinnell College. While living at Grinnell Mr. Preston lost his first wife, the mother of his children, who died in 1883, and lies in Hazelwood cemetery. After retiring from active life Mr. Preston removed to California, where he has since resided.

Mr. Preston leaves a widow, nine children, ten grandchildren and six great-grandchildren to mourn his loss. The sorrowing widow has been a loving wife and companion and has shared his joys and sorrows during the last quarter of a century. The surviving children are: Byron W. Preston, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Iowa, of Oskaloosa; V. G. Preston, of Grinnell, A. L. Preston and Geo. W. Preston, of Avoca, H. B. Preston, Mrs. Myrta Burlew, F. A. Preston, E. S. Preston and Mrs. Gertrude Rapson, all of Los Angeles, Calif. One child, Florence, died in infancy. Of the nine surviving children the four oldest "boys" are over sixty years of age, eight of the children are over fifty, the youngest is forty-seven.

Mr. Preston came from that sturdy New England ancestry whose descendants have done so much to develop Iowa and the Central West. He was a man of sterling worth, possessed of those homely virtues that go to make up strong character,—honesty, integrity, sobriety, industry and a firm belief in God. As a business man he acquired a reputation for honesty and fair dealing. As a citizen he was patriotic and held in high esteem by all who knew him. He had a big heart. He loved his family. He loved his neighbor as himself. He was proud of his children and took great satisfaction in their success and their achievements.

Mr. Preston had a talent for writing poetry and among his poems are gems of real beauty. He never lost his love for Iowa. As long as his strength permitted he returned frequently to visit his old home and neighbors at Grinnell. In his closing years, when too feeble to return, he yearned for the sight of the pastures and grain fields of the state where his active life was spent.

In the death of S. S. Preston a pioneer of Iowa passes to the Great Beyond. He lived long and well. He was a "grand old man." The world is better for his having lived. He rests in peace in the mansions of God.