

December 30, 1920

### MRS. FRANK STEVENS

#### Prominent Pioneer Dies After Linger- ing Illness.

The following article, clipped from the Redfield Press, with reference to the life and works of Mrs. Frank Stevens, will be read with interest by Grotonites. Mrs. Stevens was a pioneer resident and during her stay here assisted in the early upbuilding of the community materially. Since the family removed from this community, she has made frequent visits here and her death is mourned by a large number of local people who were her friends in life.

Mrs. Mayflower Stevens was born May 29th, 1856 in New York state and died December 19, 1920, at her home in Redfield.

Deceased was a graduate from Brockport Normal school in New York and taught for a period of four years in that state. In 1876 she came west to Minneapolis accompanied by five of her classmates and taught in the public school of that city for about three years. In 1882 she came to Groton, South Dakota and was in that year married to Mr. Frank Stevens, the widely known representative of the International Harvester company. In 1893 the family moved from Groton to Aberdeen and in 1910 from Aberdeen to Redfield, where Mrs. Stevens became a great leader in many works of charity and civic betterment.

While living at Groton, Mrs. Stevens helped organize the Baptist church at that place of which she was a member. At Aberdeen she attended the Congregational church and also became associated with the Christian Science worshippers; at Redfield she associated with the workers of St. George's Episcopal church quite extensively but everywhere proving the character of saintliness.

In civic matters Mrs. Stevens had no superior. She was county chairman of the Woman's Equal Franchise League, a cause which she had championed for years and yet when the first opportunity came to enjoy the fruits of her labor in that direction, she was too ill to leave her residence. During the late war she was county chairman of the Woman's Committees of "Council of Defense" and "Liberty Loan."

She was at one time president of the Twentieth Century club, and devoted a great deal of her time to this cause. She was the first person to take steps toward securing an extension of the Sherwood College of Music in Redfield and in fact no matter of public beneficence failed to receive her co-operation and support; while her work for the poor and in helping to make Redfield a beautiful city of flowers, gardens and shaded lawns won her a host of grateful friends.

The funeral service was conducted at the residence by the Rector of St. George's, the Reverend William H. Tamm, assisted in the music by Misses H. G. Schwartz and E. W. Hall at 3:00 p. m., Wednesday, December 22, 1920 and the remains taken to the family lot in the Groton cemetery.

The following are left to mourn the loss of a devoted wife and mother: Frank Stevens of Redfield, Dr. Herbert Stevens of Aberdeen, Florence Stevens of Redfield and Irl Stevens of Helena, Montana.

The Press extends heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved husband and family in their hour of great sorrow. The Redfield Press.