

MRS. TALBOT, 88, ENJOYS HEALTH

Has Lived in Community
Since 1866

1931

The eighty-eighth birthday of Mrs. Frederick Talbot, resident of the St. Charles community since 1866, was quietly observed Tuesday when scores of relatives and friends showered her with cards and flowers and called to congratulate her upon her excellent health. In spite of her years she is extremely active. Each day she is about the house and yard. She reads clearly and does much fine sewing.

Mrs. Talbot is one of the oldest living pioneers, and one of the few who have seen the transition from the days of the cart to the days of the automobile. She possesses a keen memory, and tells dramatically how frightened she became on several occasions when Indians called for food at her farm home east of St. Charles.

She was born in Somersetshire, England, Sept. 15, 1843 and came to America with her parents and two sisters. It took them six weeks to cross the ocean.

After the arrival in New York, the family immediately left for Dyersville, Dubuque county, Ia., where Mrs. Talbot was educated in private schools and latter in the first town school of the community. She became a milliner and operated a store in Dyersville until her marriage to Frederick Talbot on April 9, 1866.

The young couple came to Winona county where Mr. Talbot preempted 160 acres of land east of St. Charles. The journey from Dubuque to Winona was made by boat, and a stage coach conveyed them from Winona to St. Charles.

On their preempted farm the two endured all the privations of pioneer days. Wheat was taken to Decorah, Ia., to be ground into flour. Mail and provisions came from Winona. Nurses were few, and there were even fewer doctors. The community depended upon neighbors for aid, and Mrs. Talbot's reputation as a nurse brought her full share of such calls.

During her life she watched the railroad supplant the ox cart, the advent of fine horses and buggies, and later the automobile grow in popularity. She has seen great changes in methods of farming; has watched log houses replaced by brick and finished lumber, has witnessed the advent of the telephone and the telegraph.

From 1866 Mr. and Mrs. Talbot lived on their farm which was increased to 320 acres. On the day of the cyclone, Oct. 3, 1903, they moved to St. Charles, to the home now occupied by Mrs. Talbot and her granddaughter, Miss Florence Rhames. Luckily for them the storm struck south of their new home and they escaped injury, although some goods were lost in the confusion caused by St. Charles' greatest catastrophe.

Mr. Talbot died in May 1920. Two of their six children survive, Mrs. Hugh Groger and Albert Talbot, of the community.

Mrs. Talbot is a member of the Trinity Episcopal church and has been a member of Sunshine chapter, O. E. S. for 29 years. She also is a member of the Old Settler's association, and was assistant secretary for 12 years.