

# Family Group Record for

<b>Husband</b>		
Born		
Christened		
Died		
Buried		
Father		
Mother		
Marriage		

<b>Wife</b>	<b>Abbie Jane CONVERSE-[20846]</b> <sup>1, 2</sup>	
Born	24 Jun 1868	, Sumner twp, Winneshiek, IA
Christened		
Died	5 Mar 1948	Cresco, New Oregon twp, Howard, IA
Buried	8 Mar 1948	, New Oregon Twp, Howard, IA
Father	Senator Samuel Ambrose CONVERSE-[12921] (1843-1919) <sup>[MRIN:4173]</sup>	
Mother	Ellen MUNSON-[12920] (1849-1922)	

## General Notes (Wife)

OBITUARY: Abbie J. Converse, Local Librarian 36 Years, Died MARCH 5, 1948

Daughter of Pioneers of Community Spent Great-er Part of Her Life in Public Service.

Thirty-six years of service to the Cresco community were ended when Abbie J. Converse. age 79, librarian in the Cresco public library, died at her home on Second street Friday, morning fol-lowing a short illness.

Funeral services for the aged librarian were held Monday af-ternoon, in the Congregational church, of which she was active member. The services were conducted, by the Rev. E, Forrest Byers, pastor of the church. Burial was made in the New Oregon cemetery.

Abbie Jane Converse, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel A. Converse, was born in Winneshiek county, near Protivin, June 24, 1868. Her father, who served in the Iowa state legislature, first as representative and later as senator, from 1884 to 1888, was the first schoolmaster in the win-ter school in the Bohemian settlement in Sumner Winneshiek county.

He raised pure-bred cattle and farmed a thousand acre farm in New Oregon township from 1880. Miss Converse's mother; Ellen Munson, lived as a child, near Elk Point, South Dakota, but the family fled from there to escape the Sioux massacre and settled in Saude. Mr. Converse died in 1919 and Mrs. Converse followed in 1922.

Miss Converse attended the dis-tract school near her, home, the Normal Institute, in Decorah, and Upper Iowa University, in Fayette. Following graduation she taught schools in Winneshiek and: How-ard counties. In the early 90's she attended the Curtiss Business college, in Minneapolis, and follow-ing her graduation she became an instructor in the College. When her father was in Des Moines, she served as his secretary.

In 1896. she returned to Cresco where she was employed as an- assistant cashier in the First Na-tional bank. Two years later she became cashier and served in that capacity for 11 years.

In 1912 her service to the com-munity began when she became librarian in the Cresco library, which was only seven years old. She also served as registrar in the Iowa Library association.

Miss Converse was a charter member of the P. E. O. and was a member of the Tuesday club since 1909. She acted as president of each of these organizations. She was an active member of the Mayflower society of the Congregational church in Cresco and for many years had charge of the primary department of the Sunday school.

Dave Evans, president of the Cresco library board expresses the sentiments of those who really knew of the sacrifices the librarian made in the following tribute: "Her life was a fine demon-stration of unselfish effort toward community betterment." Mr. Evans cited as an example the fact that the library was kept open every Sunday afternoon as a service to the readers as a voluntary sacrifice of

continued on next page

# Family Group Record for

## General Notes (Wife)(cont.)

her time.

Miss Converse became librarian when the Cresco library was moth-in more than a few donated books in a room in the building now occupied by the Sears store. Miss Converse was the first librarian in the Carnegie building, which was built in 1915 and her service has been continuous since that time all improvements having been made under her supervision.

She is survived by two brothers, Myron B. Converse of Minneapolis and the Rev. Charles Converse of Walhalla, North Dakota, and one sister, Mrs. Clarence Coon of Cherokee.

Among those who attended the services were Myron B. Converse, of Minneapolis, the Rev. and Mrs. C. C. Converse of Walhalla, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Coon and son, Charles of Cherokee, Edward Blackorby of New Rockford, North Dakota, Mrs. Eva Converse of Mount Pleasant, and Bertha Merrill of Minneapolis, a special friend of Miss Converse's.

Those attending from the Saude district were Mrs. Mamie Grismo, Alfred Munson, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Steensland and Mr. and Mrs. Halvor Munson.

In addition to many floral tributes, numerous memorial gifts were given by relatives and friends in Miss Converse's memory.

The 88 acre natural preserve at New Oregon was part of the S. A. Converse estate, and the adoption of this ground as a state preserve brought much satisfaction to Miss Converse.

## Source Citations

1. *Occupation*, Librarian.
2. MUNSON, Paul L., "*Munson Family History, 1812 - 1989*" (Milwaukee, Tech/Data Pub, 1990), page 191 & 195.