

LOOKING BACK

BY SHIRLEY SCHAPER

James R. Howard, pioneer Farm Bureau leader, dies February 4, 1954 State Center Enterprise

Funeral services for James R. Howard, pioneer Marshall county farmer and the first president of the American Farm Bureau Federation who died following a stroke at his home near Clemons Wednesday, January 27, were held at the Congregational church in Clemons at 2:00 p.m. last Friday. The Rev. L.T. Proctor, pastor of the church, was in charge of the services. Interment was in Bangor Cemetery.

He is survived by his wife, four children, Robert of Winnetka, Ill., farm editor of the Chicago Tribune; Henry of Clemons; John of Lanham, Md. and Mrs. A.M. Paterson of Kansas City, and five grandchildren.

Mr. Howard was born March 24, 1873 in Liberty township on the same farm where he died. The farm is known as Homeland Farms. He received a bachelor of philosophy degree at Penn College in 1894 and a master's degree at the same school in 1897. He later studied at the University of Chicago.

He was married December 28, 1900 to Anna Pickerel and except for a period as a bank cashier at New Providence and as a teacher had been a farmer, stockman and farm leader all his life.

Mr. Howard headed the American Farm Bureau Federation from 1919 to 1923 and was the first president of the Iowa Farm Bureau. He was a member of the St. Lawrence Waterways Commission in 1924 and was a longtime member of the board of governors of the American Agricultural Institute.

From 1915-18 Howard headed the Marshall County Farm Bureau as its first president and in 1918-19 became first president of the Iowa Farm Bureau, moving up to the presidency of the American Farm Bureau on Nov. 15, 1919.