

# Great Grandma's Bell

*by Kathleen M. Rehl*

Born in 1877  
Becoming a teenage schoolmarm  
    Ring her little bell  
In a one-room Iowa schoolhouse  
Calling boisterous farm kids for  
    Reading, 'riting, and 'rithmetic



Marrying sweetheart at age 20  
    Rules back then  
Ending her teaching career  
Caring for husband and household valued more

Encouraging her daughter  
Graduating normal school  
Passing that significant bell  
Teaching in another rural school



Growing up, I played teacher with this bell  
Living many years in a four-generation home  
    Becoming a real teacher later  
        My grandmas  
Giving me their special bell  
    A half-century ago

As I write, our tarnishing bell is close by  
    Ringing through decades  
Feeling great grandma nearby  
    Whispering  
    'T'll always help guide you  
    Loving surely forevermore."