

George

7-21 OBITUARY. 1916

Mrs. Mary Ann Simmons.

Mary Ann Lincoln was born Dec. 31, 1831, at Minister, Isle of Sheppy, England, and departed this life at her home, 433 West street, Grinnell, Ia., July 18, 1916. In the spring of 1853 she with her parents came to America, sailing for seven weeks in an old sailing vessel before they sighted land. The family settled at Groveport, O. On Jan. 26, 1854, she was united in marriage to Geo. Simmons of Groveport, O., and to this union were born seven children, two of whom have preceded her. In April, 1865, they moved with their family to Iowa, and settled about 5 1/2 miles south of Grinnell on the then barren prairies which have now developed into the rich farming country of Oak Grove. This land is still owned by the Lincoln family.

Because of the infirmity of her husband Mr. and Mrs. Simmons with their family moved to 433 West street, Grinnell, Ia., which has been her home till her death. While here Mr. and Mrs. Simmons enjoyed the distinction of celebrating their golden wedding anniversary, Jan. 26, 1904. The family ties were again broken when her husband died, Aug. 15, 1913.

Grandma Simmons, as she was familiarly known, had a wonderful vitality and endurance. She was forceful in her habits and all were glad to obey her commands. Her life was beautiful in simplicity, and useful in its plainness. Her life as a Christian stands as a monument to those who knew her best and this quality stands predominant through her entire life. She displayed wonderful patience in the last six months while bedfast, and was waiting, ready, and willing to go to her Lord and Master. She leaves to mourn her loss four sons and one daughter, Robert, of Rock Island, W. H. and G. W. of Grinnell, Ed, of Peace River Falls, Minn, and Mrs. L. C. Stoaks of Grinnell; three brothers, Edward and Earnest of Grinnell, and Henry of Groveport, O.; and nineteen grandchildren. All of her children were at her bedside with the exception of Ed, who could not be present on account of the distance. Robert arrived a short time afterwards.

THE TOTAL OFFERING... typical of the beautiful life that had departed, and the great number present showed the esteem in which Mrs. Simmons was held. The pallbearers were her sons, Robert, Will and George, and three grandsons, Leonard and Ralph Simmons, and Floyd Stoaks. Rev. W. B. Wilson conducted the services. His words of comfort cheered the hearts that mourned and after the strains of "Nearer, My God, To Thee" had died away and the comforting words of the Master, "Let not your heart be troubled. Ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions. If it were not so I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you," one realized that this earthly life was only a pilgrimage to the heavenly home with the Father beyond.