

3-9 Mrs. Jesse Ratcliff. 917

Jesse
Elizabeth Rathcliff, daughter of William and Sarah Ratcliff, was born in Guernsey county, Ohio, on February 10, 1834. She lived in that neighborhood until grown, and was married to Jesse Ratcliff, April 29, 1857. They made their home in Ohio until 1863. They then came to Iowa and settled in the vicinity of Sugar Creek where she lived until her death, which occurred on March 2, 1917, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Harry Russell. She was an invalid for 18 years, bearing her sufferings with a sweet, Christian spirit without a murmur, always thoughtful for the comfort of others. She was a birth-right member of the Friends church and was a consistent and useful member, being an elder for a number of years until her death. She ever had a clear insight and keen interest in the cause of her Lord. Willing to spend and be spent in His service, her influence was widely felt. She took her six grandchildren at the death of their mother into her home and cared for them as for her own for some years.

She leaves to mourn her loss, one daughter and two sons, Mrs. Harry Russell of Sugar Creek; Horace of Lynnville and Clifford Ratcliff living near Kellogg, her husband, one daughter, Mrs. Ella Williams and son, William, having preceded her; also eighty relatives including grandchildren and great grandchildren.

The services were held at Sugar Creek church, conducted by the Rev. Robert Lincoln, assisted by William Robison and Miss Laura Hesley. The pall bearers were chosen from among her nephews and the body was lovingly laid to rest beside her husband and the two deceased children in the cemetery by the church.