

Obituaries of Marion County, Tennessee 1895 - 1920; Volume One

Compiled by Euline Harris

Page 5 1897

“IN MEMORIAM

One of the oldest homes in the Valley was broken up last Friday by the death of Mrs. Jane Griffith and the removal of her aged husband, James Griffith, to his son's at Jasper, Tenn. Mrs. Griffith was born in Knox County, Tenn. Dec. 2, 1819, and died at her home, three miles north of Whitwell, Marion County, Tenn., Dec. 31, 1897, aged 78 years and twenty-nine days.

She moved with her parents to the Sequachee Valley when five or six years of age. Her people were among the first white families to come into the Valley; and hence she has seen, during her lifetime, this beautiful valley changed from the hunting grounds of the Indians to its present high state of cultivation, and growth in population from a few white families to thousands of refined and cultivated people.

Her maiden name was McLain and she was the oldest of six children, but was the last one to die.

Her death was on the sixteenth anniversary of the death of her youngest brother, who was the last of the family, except herself, to die. They were both buried in the family burying ground, on Jan. 1st, and parties who were present at both burials remarked that the days were very much alike - cold, with a light snow on the ground.

At the age of sixteen, she was happily married to James Griffith, eight years her senior, and at the extreme age of eighty-six still survives. For sixty-two years they had lived together, and for fifty years in the same house in which she died. Their attachment to each other seemed to grow stronger as they grew older, and it was a sad sight, indeed, to see the aged husband, feeble, and almost totally blind, heart-broken, follow his companion of sixty-two years to her final resting place, but was more touching still when the writer the next day visited the old home and saw the aged husband and father sitting for the last time in his own house. The children had gathered to divide among themselves the household goods. Sorrow was written on each countenance and they walked with reverent tread. They were on holy ground and the articles made by mother's hands were looked upon as sacred, and will be kept by the children as heirlooms.

Mrs. Griffith was the mother of fourteen children, but eight of them died in infancy, and Martha A., wife of Dave Deakins, died Sept. 1869, aged 22 years. Five still survive - three boys and two girls.

Dr. H. W. Griffith is a reading physician of Jasper, Tenn; Peyton; the youngest child lives in Chattanooga, Tenn; and William A. lives in the old home at Shirleyton, Tenn; Mary, the wife of Robert Price, lives at Jasper, Tenn; Lou

is the wife of Rev. J. H. Perrott, formerly Trustee of Marion County, but now pastor of the M. E. Church, South, Rodgersville, Tenn.

The five children were with their mother during the last days of her illness, and did all that loving hearts and willing hands could do to alleviate pain and show filial love.

It is worthy of remark that this was the first time they had all been together. The oldest, Dr. H. W., had left home before the youngest was born, and they had never had a reunion when all were together.

Sixty years ago, at the Hoge Campground, now know as Ebenezer, Mrs. Griffith was converted and joined the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and since that time has lived an exemplary life.

She has exemplified the beauty of a pure Christian character.

In her death we have seen fulfilled the promise of the inspired writer; &lsquo;Thou shall come to thy grave in a full age like as a shock of corn cometh in this season&rsquo;.

She was in many ways a remark-woman. Though seventy-eight years of age, she kept well informed on the current events of the day and took the liveliest interest in all questions affecting the public. She was strong in body, strong in mind, and strong in faith. Her last sickness was somewhat protracted and for sometime her suffering was intense, but she bore it all with patience and was perfectly resigned, to the will of God. A truly good woman has gone from us. She will be missed in the home in the entire community; our loss is her eternal gain.

J. M. Wooten&quot;