

Bertha M. Kenty Pioneer Resident Dies Wednesday

7-15-1954

Bertha M. Kenty, pioneer resident of this community, passed away at the Platte County Memorial hospital Wednesday following an extended illness. Her kind and courageous manner made her among the most respected citizens in our community.

Born in Milford, Canada, June 16, 1879, she came as a tiny baby to Tie Siding, where the family lived only a few months before moving to Rawlins. It was in Rawlins that Bertha received all her education. Mr. Kenty operated a freighting wagon there, and this took him great distances from home in the last decade of the 19th century. When her parents moved to the Wheatland community to engage in farming, she taught school for three terms, which were at that time only six months long.

The schools taught included the William Taylor and Anna McKechnie ranch schools and the school on the Jones ranch, then owned by the Swan company. In this school her three pupils were Mrs. Frank Wedemeyer, her twin brother, Oscar Johnson and Rosa Henke.

While teaching, she made her home with the William Ayers family and because of her valued service to them, stayed with them as housekeeper, remaining for a period of 45 years. When her mother was left a widow in 1923, she too was invited to make her home with the Ayers'.

On April 8, 1943, Miss Kenty was honored for her years of service to the Ayers family at a tea in the home of Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Goodrich, where 60 friends were present and many letters from absent ones were read. Her mother was present for the occasion and lived until January, 1944.

She was affiliated with the Congregational church, Rock Lake Grange, WCTU and the Dorcas society.

Funeral services will be conducted from the Schrader chapel Friday afternoon at 2 o'clock with Rev. J. B. Milstead officiating and burial in the local cemetery. Her nephews will serve as pallbearers.

Survivors are three sisters, Mrs. A. A. (Kathryn) Chase, Wheatland; Mrs. Margaret Hinds, Woodburn, Ore. and Mrs. Hazel Brainard, San Bernardino, Calif.; two brothers, Roy Kenty, Nampa, Calif., and William Kenty, Hinkley, Calif. and several nieces and nephews.