

## **Mrs. Mary Preuit Dies At Her Home at 95 Yrs. Of Age.**

Death claimed one of Wheatland's most aged citizens Tuesday, January 11, 1955 with the passing of Mrs. Mary Preuit, 94, at her home there. Mrs. Preuit, a resident of the community since 1930, was named Platte County's "Mother of the Year for 1954.

Grandma Mary Louise Carpenter Preuit was born in Dewitt, Michigan, (near Lansing), March 17, 1860. Early in life her father was killed by Indians while trying to recover his horses, stolen by them. After his death she went to make her home with her grandparents, Middleton.

In 1874 she accompanied her grandparents in an immigrant train, consisting of five covered wagons, on a trek to eastern Nebraska. She tells of waiting three days for the flooded Missouri River to recede before they were able to cross over on the ferry. They homesteaded in Waco, York County, Nebr., where she grew to womanhood and married William Marion Preuit. Mr Preuit came west and helped build the first railroad west of Lincoln.

The Preuit's had nine children, seven boys and two girls, and she was a devoted mother. The pioneer spirit with which she was endowed, became apparent in her children. When they became older they journeyed westward and settled in and around Wheatland. In 1931 she decide to come west to be with them. She remained active most of the time despite failing health in recent years. She baked bread every Saturday, cooks and in her spare moments she sits and makes rugs (one a week average) and she never failed to vote. She was affiliated with the Christian Church.

Her surviving children are Amos A Preuit, Omaha, Nebr. Oral S. Preuit, Wheatland, Elmer L Preuit, Marshall, MO; Edward B. Preuit, Wheatland; Ms. Mae Davis, Torrington and Mrs. Lola E. Gray of Wheatland. "Grandma" Preuit had 29 grandchildren, 52 great grandchildren, and 2 great great grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held Saturday at 2:00 p.m. at the Christian church, with the minister of the church, Floyd Hopper, in charge. Her grandsons will serve as pallbearers. Burial will be in the local cemetery.