

SIMPKINS, MARY JANE ORR
January 21-1837-November 26, 1913

Mary Jane Orr was born in Orrville, Ohio, Jan. 21, 1837. There she grew to womanhood. She was the daughter of James Orr of the noted Orr family who founded the city of Orrville, and organized Wayne county, Ohio. She was married to John W. Simpkins on May 28, 1863. They moved to Nebraska and settled on a farm near Wahoo. About 40 years of her life were spent there, and there she reared her family. She was the mother of eight children, six of whom have preceded her to the home in the great beyond. About six years ago, she with her husband came to Wheatland and settled on a farm northeast of this city.

Mr. and Mrs. Simpkins celebrated their golden anniversary on May 23, 1913. Mrs. Simpkins had been a consistent Christian since early childhood and all her desire in life was to walk close beside her Savior and do His will, administering to the needs of the suffering and the wants of the poor. In the prime of her life, she was an active church worker. In early life, she was a member of the Presbyterian church, but when she came to Nebraska she placed her letter with the Methodist church and remained in this church over 45 years. She was a steward of the church for about 15 years.

On the Saturday before she passed away, she regained consciousness, she prayed and asked her sister to pray with her. She talked to each member of the family, urging them to take up their cross and become followers of the true and living God and prepare to meet her in the mansion not made by hands. She left a glorious testimony that all was well with her soul. She passed to her reward Nov. 26, 1913, aged 76 years, 10 months and 26 days. She was at the home of her grandson, R.B. Bruce when the summons came.

She leaves to mourn her departure an aged husband, a son, J.C. Simpkins of Wheatland; a daughter, Mrs. Emma Bond of Melbeta, Neb.; two sisters, Mrs. Emma Brown of Omaha, and Mrs. Ella Tranmer of Lyons, Neb.; who were at her bedside when the final summons came; also two brothers, Wm. Orr of Lincoln, Neb., and Henry Orr of Whatcomb, Wash.

Funeral services were held at the home of Mr. Bruce, conducted by Rev. John K. Hicks, and interment was made in the Wheatland cemetery.

The relatives have the sympathy of all in their bereavement, and may the God of grace help them bear their sorrow.