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INTERESTING LIFE

NOTABLE WOMAN

Continued from first page.

and attended many of his meetings.

Mr. and Mrs. Wiley were the parents of eight children, five sons and three daughters. One daughter died in infancy. She gave three of her sons to the defense of the nation in 1861, Robert, John and Joseph, all enlisting in the 8th Illinois Infantry and all being in the same company. Robert contracted the measles during the siege of Vicksburg and died there and is buried in the Vicksburg national cemetery. John died 42 years ago and is buried at Pleasant Hill cemetery. March 31, 1891, after a devoted married life of nearly fifty years her husband passed away, the family then living in Colfax, and he rests in the Wiley cemetery. She is survived by three sons; Joseph of Kearney, Neb., James F. of Decatur, Ill., and Rev. W. R. of Normal, and two daughters, Amelia Smith, of Bayard, Neb., and Elizabeth Fincham of Colfax. She also leaves two brothers, Robert Hopkins of Kansas, and Henry Hopkins of Bloomington, Ill., and there

are in addition twenty-four grandchildren and thirty-six great grandchildren and three great-great-grand children.

Grandma Wiley, as she was known to everyone, united with the Methodist Episcopal church when she was seven years of age, and remained one of its most staunch supporters during the long period of 84 years. No weather was too bad, no night too dark for her and she was always found at the prayer meeting and at Sunday-school and church nearly every Sunday until past ninety years of age, when her sight almost failed her and she was unable to be out much. But she was always there in spirit.

Eleven weeks previous to her death while out in the back yard at her home she sustained a severe fall which dislocated her hip and injured her internally. She was carried in the house and placed in her bed from which she never arose. On account of her extreme age recovery was almost too much to hope for, but she was patient throughout it all. Her children mentioned above all hastened to her bedside and were her constant companions night and day, being assisted by many of her numerous friends. All that loving hands

could do proved futile, as Grandma well knew, and she expected the summons at any time, knowing that all was well. Thursday night at 10 o'clock the children realized that the end was near and she gradually sank until at 2:45 in the morning (Friday) her spirit took its flight to the better land, and thus ended a career that not many of the inhabitants of this world ever experience. The funeral services were held at the M. E. church the following Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock, conducted by Rev. J. W. Ferris, assisted by Dr. U. Z. Gilmer of Maquon and Dr. Williams, District Superintendent of the district. The church was filled almost to its capacity with friends who came to show their last tribute to this departed mother. The choir rendered "Nearer My God to Thee," and after prayer by Dr. R. Williams he spoke for a few moments on the strong Christian character of the deceased, his impressions being gathered from the many years he had known her. Dr. U. Z. Gilmer, who was her pastor a number of years ago, came for the funeral and then spoke for some little time, using for his text the words from Paul quoted at the beginning of the sketch. Dr. Gilmer was intimately acquainted with Grandma

and probably was able to appreciate her deep knowledge of the Bible and of things spiritual more than most of us. Following Dr. Gilmer Rev. J. W. Ferris gave the obituary, intermingling the sketch with facts of her life that had come under his own observation, telling of events that had transpired that showed what an impression her life had made on both young and old in the community. We have not the room to give these talks in full much as we would like to. Following the talk of Mr. Ferris the choir sang "Jesus Lover of My Soul," and thus ended the closing services in the career of this notable woman. The remains were conveyed to the Wiley cemetery, followed by a long line of carriages, and the body was laid to rest beside her husband. The pallbearers were five of her grandsons, Hamilton and Earl Wiley, of Normal; Fred, Lemuel and Paul Fincham, and Leroy Withers, husband of her granddaughter.

Those present from a distance attending the funeral were Rev. Wm. C. Wiley and family, of Normal; James Wiley and daughter and husband, of Decatur; Joseph Wiley, of Kearney, Neb., and Mrs. Amelia Smith, of Bayard, Neb.; Mrs. Hannah Ogden and four grandchildren, of Lexington; Milton Henline and family, of Tawanda, besides many from the neighboring community.