



Polly (Mary Rebecca Peckham) Atkinson - bio

Birth: 18 Nov 1839 – Stocktonk Chautauqua County, New York, USA

Death: 18 Dec 1919 (aged 80) – Pawnee City, Nebraska, USA

Burial: Pawne City Cemetery – Pawnee City, Nebraska, USA

Obituary – Pawnee City Republican

Death came as a welcome release to Mrs. Polly Rebecca Atkinson on the afternoon of December 18, 1919. For two years Mrs. Atkinson had suffered from a stroke of

paralysis which rendered her helpless and speechless. While she was spared the physical pain that accompanies other forms of disease, nevertheless she suffered in a way that only those who knew her in her former days of intense, enthusiastic activity, can realize. None of her mental faculties was dimmed in the least by the sickness. Her love of companionship and the desire for active life lingered with her. She suffered the pain of a spirit in captivity.

There were some of us who knew her only in her sickness. Many remember her as a citizen of the community. They recall her energy and untiring efforts to be of service to the numerous organizations to which she belonged. There are a few of the old settlers who recall the early days when the country was wild. They remember her as she used frequently to ride six or eight miles from home, alone on horseback, to care for the sick. One of these older residents, when questioned about Mrs. Atkinson and her life in the early days, said, "Well on this earth once in a while you meet an angel, and she was pretty nearly that."

Polly Rebecca Peckham was born in Chautauqua county, New York, November 18, 1839, where she lived until at the age of twelve she moved with her parents to Green county, Wisconsin. There she grew to womanhood. There also she was united in marriage to John C. Atkinson in 1861. In 1866 she, with her husband and two children, moved to Pawnee county, Nebraska, settling upon a homestead one mile south of the present location of Steinauer. After living on the homestead for a period of seven years, the family moved to the vicinity of Pawnee City. where they lived on a farm for a number of years, after which they built a new home in the city, where she resided until the time of her death, Thursday, December 18, 1919.

The spirit of her life is expressed in a verse of a poem written on her sixtieth birthday by her husband, J. C. Atkinson:

"But while we live let's be alive
To needs of fellow man,
And in each instance work and strive
To do the best we can."

Mr. and Mrs. Atkinson were the parents of eight children, J.E. Atkinson, who died January 8, 1916; Jennie A. Conover of Pawnee City; Ernest, who died in infancy; Annie L. Johnson of Chambers, Nebr.; C.A. of Pawnee City; Estelle Bechtel, of Pawnee City; Maude Thayer of Pullman, Wash.; Jessie D. North of Pawnee City.

Funeral services were conducted Sunday afternoon at two o'clock in the Presbyterian church by Rev. Paul C. Payne. Interment was made in the Pawnee City cemetery.

Inscription



Polly R.
Wife of
J.C. Atkinson
Nov. 18, 1839
Dec. 18, 1919

Look for in her documents file:

Autobiography: Polly Peckham Atkinson