Mary Willis, Sept. 4, 1822 - Feb. 10, 1908

Mrs. Mary Willis, nee Emmerson, one of the pioneers of Edwards county, who since the death of her husband some years ago, has made her home with her daughter, Mrs. Morris Johnson, about a mile north of Grayville, passed to her eternal reward last Monday, Feb. 10th, after a week's illness. Mrs. Willis was born at Little Prairie, Edwards county, IL, Sept. 4, 1822, and at the time of her demise was 85 years, 5 months, and six days. On Apr. 30, 1840, she was united in marriage to Asel Willis, seven children blessing their union, two of whom, Mrs. MOrris Johnson, of Grayville, and Frank Willis, of Larned, KS, survive their mother.

One brother, E.W. Emmerson, of Albion; three sisters, Mesdames Nancy Willis, of Ellery, Eliza Craig, of Albion, and Lucy Dickson, of Taskin, WI, in addition to nine grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, and a host of relatives and friends mourn the loss of this Christian woman, who by her genial disposition had endeared herself to all who knew her. At the age of fifteen, Mrs. WIllis united with the Christian church at Little Prairie, and years afterward moved her membership to the church here of which she was a faithful member to the time of her death, a regular attendant while her health permitted. After her long and useful life, we feel she is not dead but —-

George W. Curtis, Jan. 28, 1846 - Feb. 29, 1908

George W. Curtis, a lifelong resident of Browns Chapel neighborhood, passed away Saturday, Feb. 29, 1908, after a lingering illness. He was born in Edwards county Jan. 28, 1846, being at the time of his death 62 years, 1 month, and 1 day. In 1855, in company with many of his neighbors, he enlisted in Co. F. 152nd Ill. Vol. Inf. serving until the close of the war.

On Jan. 22, 1871, he was married to Harriet Williamson, five children resulting from the union, four of whom with their mother preceded him to the other world. In Sept. of '89, he took unto himself another helpmeet in the person of Mary L. Howell, four children brightening their home - Oscar Wallace of Ponca, NE, Frankland A. Howard and David, who passed away in infancy, who with R. Clarence, the only surviving child of his first marriage, now a resident of Pon —.

Lyman W. Low, Oct. 28, 1862 - Mar. 2, 1908

Lyman W. Low, for many years one of the leading lawyers of Edwards county, died at the Rebecca Hospital in St. Louis last Tuesday morning as the result of an operation performed some days prior for kidney trouble. Mr. Low was the son of Dr. Low, known throughout Edwards and adjoining counties where for years he enjoyed an extensive practice. He was born and raised in Albion and resided there continuously until some three years ago when he moved to Fairfield, which town was his home at the time of his demise. Shortly before his removal to Fairfield he went to Peoria, IL, where he entered the sanitarium and underwent an operation the hope of benefiting his condition and for a time it seemed as if he would get along, but complications arose which necessitated the second operation some few days ago, terminating as above stated.

The devotion of his wife throughout the years of his enfeebled condition was the most touching and to her and the aged father, now nearly ninety, who for years has made his home with them, the deepest sympathy is extended. In addition to the above, Mr. Low leaves a

brother, H.F. Low, proprietor of the Enterprise Drug Store at Albion and numerous other relatives. The funeral will occur Friday — services being held at his late residence in Fairfield, after which the remains will be taken to Albion where services will be held at the M.E. church, after which all that is mortal of this estimable gentleman will be laid to rest beside that of his child in Graceland cemetery.

Florence *Rawlinson* Taylor, Feb. 13, 1859 - Mar. 4, 1908

The many friends of Mrs. John Allen Taylor, who resides about half a mile southwest of Grayville, were shocked on Wednesday morning last on hearing of her death, her last illness being of only a week's duration. While practically an invalid for some ten years, she was at all times able to assist with the household duties, and her final taking off came as a surprise to even her immediate family.

Mrs. Taylor, nee Florence Rawlinson, daughter of George Rawlinson of Crossville, IL, was born Feb. 13, 1859, at Crossville, where in young womanhood she united with the Methodist Episcopal church. In 1879 she was married to John Allen Taylor; one daughter, Miss Stella, blessing their union. In addition to these, she is survived by one sister, two half sisters, and four half brothers, to whom the sympathy of a large circle of friends, including The Independent, is extended. The funeral services will take place this afternoon at 2:30 o'clock from the M.E. church, the pastor, Rev. E.T. Carroll, officiating. Interment will be made at the city cemetery.

Julia Atherton, Mar. 16, 1845 - Mar. 6, 1908

Mrs. Julia Atherton, one of the pioneer residents of this city passed away at her home on North Main street last Friday morning after a lingering illness. Deceased was born in Indiana March 16, 1845, her maiden name being Julia A. Baskett. She came to this county early in life and on Jan. 10, 1861, was united in marriage to John C. Dinnell. To them was born nine children, six of whom and the husband preceded her to the beyond.

The surviving children are James, who resides in Arkansas, Mrs. Della Arbuckle of Marshall, IL, and Mrs. Pearl Dawson of Arizona. Some twelve years ago the decedent contracted a second marriage with Mr. Frank Atherton, who lived but a few years, since which time Mrs. Atherton has lived alone.

Although never affiliating with any church, a fact she seemed to deeply regret when in conversation with friends, she was always considered a good living woman, charitable in the extreme, and, when her health permitted, worshipped at the Christian church. Some time prior to her death she wrote the obituary, which was read at the funeral last Sunday afternoon. Services were held at her home, conducted by Rev. E.U. Smith, pastor of the Christian church, who took for his text, Romans 12-14. The choir sang a favorite hymn of the deceased "I'll go where you want me to go dear Lord," in a touching and pa —.

Nancy C. *Donaldson* Coulter, Feb. 14, 1866 - Mar. 22, 1908

Nancy C. Donaldson was born in White county, Illinois, Feb. 14, 1866, where her entire life was spent. On Jan. 1, 1885, she was married to W.J. Coulter, three children blessing their union - Harry, who died in infancy; Cecil Chatty and William John, who with their father bemoan the

loss of their loved one, who passed to the beyond Mar. 22, 1908, after a brief but severe illness of several days' duration. In addition to her immediate family, she is survived by her mother, four brothers and a sister to each of whom is extended sincere sympathy.

Mrs. Coulter professed faith in Christ and united with the Presbyterian church at Calvin Aug. 26, 1900, in which she was a faithful worker until called to her eternal reward. She was a devoted wife and mother, one in whom her husband found a joy and a consolation that will always be a stay to him; the blessed influence of her life will be a cheer that will enable him to be bear [sic] up until called to join her in her celestial home. She and her daughter were more like companions that otherwise, their relations being of the happiest and most congenial, while the son, who is still of tender age, will never forget the loving care and wholesome advice given. The memories of such a home life are not soon forgotten.

The funeral occurred Monday afternoon at two o'clock from the residence, four miles southwest of Grayville, Rev. G.A. Wilson, of Crossville, officiating and was largely attended by friends and neighbors from miles around. Interment followed in Charles cemetery.

George Casebier, June 10, 1849 - Mar. 26, 1908

George Casebier, recognized throughout White county as one of its solid and substantial residents, passed peacefully away at the family residence nine miles west of town last Thursday after an illness covering a period of several weeks, surrounded by his immediate family, consisting of his wife, five sons, and one daughter, who for days had been trying to ward off the inevitable.

Mr. Casebier was born in Kentucky on June 10, 1849, in which state he resided until 10 years of age, at which time he came to this state, settling in White county, residing on the farm where he died continuously with the exception of some five or six years. In 1871 the decedent was united in marriage to Miss —-.

Kemp A. Bowman, Dec. 25, 1835 - May 20, 1908

Kemp Bowman, one of the few remaining pioneers of Albion, who from infancy watched that thriving city grow, and who has been identified with its business interests for many years, passed away at his home in that city yesterday morning at 10:20 o'clock. Mr. Bowman had been in failing health for some months hence his death was not entirely unexpected.

He is survived by his faithful companion of many years, three sons, two daughters, and two brothers in addition to numerous minor relatives. He was an uncle of our fellow citizen, Mr. George P. Bowman. The funeral will take place tomorrow afternoon from the residence, Rev. Mitchell, rector of Mt. Carmel Episcopal church officiating. Interment at Graceland.

Laura Bell Scott-Broster, Aug. 4, 1872 - May 29, 1908

Seldom has a death cast such general gloom over the community as did that of Mrs. Laura Scott-Broster, who passed away at family residence in French Creek Precinct last Friday after a brief illness of scarcely a week's duration. Mrs. Broster was the oldest daughter of the late Joseph K. and Mrs. Mary K. Scott, and was born in Edwards county Illinois on Aug. 4, 1872,

being at the time of her demise aged 35 years, 9 months, and 25 days. She was reared and educated at their farm home on the Grayville and Albion roads.

When but fourteen years of age, she confessed Christ and was received into the Christian church at Albion, where she continued to hold her membership until some four years ago at which time she transferred her church relations to Fortney congregation of the M.E. church, being more convenient as –.

John A. Taylor, - July 1908

John A. Taylor, who passed away last Wednesday afternoon after a brief illness at the home of his niece, Mrs. John Hoffner of Oxford Hill, and whose funeral took place the following afternoon from the Christian church, was born in Kentucky Jan. 7, 1838. When but fourteen years of age, he moved to Illinois with his parents and was thereafter a resident of his adopted state. When the war cloud spread from north to south and there was a call for volunteers he enlisted in Company E 7th IL Cavalry and served his country faithfully throughout the war, being honorably discharged at the close.

Some few years ago, he united with the Christian church. He never married, preferring to bach it, and up to a short time prior to his demise lived by himself. He is survived by two sisters, Mrs. Nancy Thompson of this city, and Mrs. Elizabeth Emboden of Mattoon, IL, and numerous minor relatives.

Mary Jane *Cowling* Coles, Oct. 5, 1838 - July 10, 1908

Mrs. Mary Jane Cowling Coles, one of Edwards county's pioneer residents, died at her home in North Grayville on Friday, July 10, 1908, after an illness covering a period of some six years, which she bore with Chrisian fortitude often expressing her readiness to meet the blessed Savior.

She was born in Edwards county on Oct. 5, 1838, and at the time of her death was in her seventieth year. She was united in marriage to W.S. Coles on Sept. 6, 1857, five daughters blessing their union - Mesdames Alice Tinney, Olive Rotramel, Mary Griesbaum, Rosa Mann of Grayville, and Miss Viola, who died in her thirteenth year. In addition to these four daughters, she is survived by her faithful companion of over half a century, five grandchildren, one great-grandchild, three brothers, and a host of relatives, friends, and neighbors who mourn the death of a loved one. While not affiliating with any particular church, she was never-the-less always considered a good Christian woman and most charitably inclined.

The funeral took place from the late residence Sunday afternoon at two o'clock. Rev. Stephen Williams assisted by Rev. E.T. Carroll officiating. The remains were tenderly borne to their last resting place in Oak Grove cemetery, her six nephews serving as pall bearers.

Mary Dawson, Dec. 18, 1900 - Aug. 4, 1908

Mr. and Mrs. Ludlow Dawson mourn the loss of their bright little daughter, Miss Mary, who passed away Tuesday, Aug. 4, 1908 at the home of her parents near Union, White county, after a few weeks' illness due to typhoid fever.

Little Mary, a most lovable child owing to her sunny disposition, was born near Grayville on Dec. 18, 1809[sic], being at the time of her demise aged eight years, seven months, and sixteen days. She was the sixth child of a family of seven children and the first to break up that happy family circle. The surviving brothers and sisters are Rolla, who, with his family, resides at Hovey's Switch, IN, Moses, Roy, Paul, Zella, and Goldie, to whom with the stricken parents, the deepest sympathy of the entire community goes out.

The funeral services were held at Union church Wednesday afternoon at three o'clock; Rev. G.W. Wilson of Crossville officiating. The pretty little church was crowded with sorrowing relatives, friends, and neighbors, several from this city, among the audience. Interment followed in the little cemetery joining the church.

Eddie S. Oxman, July 11, 1890 - Sept. 20, 1908

Eddie S. Oxman, foster child of Mr. and Mrs. John Oxman, passed away at the family residence on Church street Sunday morning, Sept. 20, 1908, at the age of 18 years, 2 months, and 9 days, having been born July 11, 1890. At the early age of four years, he was taken into the home of Mr. and Mrs. Oxman, who lavished their affections on him, doing all that natural parents could possibly do for his welfare, spiritually and otherwise. That they were repaid is best told by those who knew Eddie best. His life was an open book, his actions at all times being such as to attract the admiration of all.

While not affiliating with any particular church, he was never-the-less a good christian boy, attending the Presbyterian church and Sunday school when his health would permit. Something over a year ago, he contracted whooping cough and, being a frail constitution, his lungs became affected, tuberculosis claiming him as its victim. In spring of 1907, the deceased went to New Mexico in the hope of benefitting his condition but becoming homesick, he soon returned, since which time he has been on the decline. But despite that fact, he has gone about and up to three weeks ago was on our streets. He was only bedfast one week, due undoubtedly to his will power. His untimely taking off is a great blow to his foster parents, who are almost inconsolable over his loss.

Funeral services were held Monday afternoon, Sept. 21st at 2:00 o'clock from the family residence, Rev. J.F. Lackey, pastor of the Presbyterian church, officiating. Interment followed in Oak Grove cemetery. The pallbearers were Clarence Rotramel, Carroll Naney, Oliver Adams, St. Clair Madden, George Bowman, and Kemper Irvine, classmates and chums of the deceased.

Samuel West, Jan. 27, 1829 - Sept. 27, 1908

Samuel West, the subject of this sketch, was born Jan. 27, 1829, and departed this life Sept. 27, 1908, being at the time of his death aged 78 years and 5 months. He was united in marriage some fifty-five years ago to Margaret Hoover, nine children blessing their union. Three boys, Z.B. of St. Anna, CA, Al of near Fairfield, and J.F. of San Diego, CA. Some eight years ago his companion died, and he later took unto himself as a helpmeet and life partner Malinda Elliott of Crossville, who with the above named children survive him and mourn the loss of a fond husband and father. In addition to these, he leaves one brother, James West.

For over a half century the deceased has been an active and consistent member of the Primitive Baptist church, where his influence for good was always a power. Mr. West had no fear of death and during his last illness spoke many times of his approaching end and expressed himself as perfectly reconciled, for he felt he would be with Him whom he had labored so faithfully to serve in life. Funeral services were held Monday morning, Sept. 28th, from Burk Prairie Baptist church southwest of Albion, Revs. Lewis Hunsinger and Stephen Williams of Grayville officiating, after which all that was mortal of this Christian man was laid to rest in the family graveyard adjacent.

Missouri Masterson, Mar. 1856 - Oct. 8, 1908

Mrs. Missouri Masterson passed away at her home some six miles west of Grayville on Sunday, Oct. 11, 1908, aged 53 years, after an illness of several months, the deceased only being confined to her bed however, for several days prior to her death. Mrs. Masterson was born in Clay county, IL, in 1856, moving to this county many years ago. In 1874 she was united in marriage to George Masterson, five boys - Will, Zach, Edward, Fred, and Walter, and two girls - Mesdames Estelle Short of Burnt Prairie, and Marshal Baird of Frederick, OK, being born of this union, all of whom survive and were with their parent when she died.

About fifteen years ago, the deceased professed a hope in Christ and united with the Methodist church and throughout her illness expressed a readiness and willingness to die, her life here on earth having been a continual preparation for the better world. Funeral services were held at Birk — church, Edwards county, Tuesday – morning, Oct. 13, Rev. Steph —-- of Grayville, officiating.

Peter Kershaw, Jan. 18, 1838 - Oct. 15, 1908

Peter Kershaw was born in Edwards county, IL, Jan. 18, 1838, and died at his late residence four miles west of this city Oct. 15th, 1908. Age 70 years, 9 months, 25 days. He was married to Miss Alice Spencer May 3rd, 1868, to this union were born six children, two having died in infancy. His wife died Mar. 16th, 1900. Four children Mr. Grant, Misses Nellie and Allena of this county, Mr. Peter Kershaw Jr, of Medford.

Coredelia *Dudley* Fleming, Nov. 7, 1832 - Dec. 9, 1908

Mrs. Cordelia Dudley Fleming, wife of Joseph T. Fleming, passed away at the home of the family in this city at three o'clock Wednesday afternoon of last week. Her last illness extended over a period of about one year. Deceased had been a resident of this city for nearly forty-eight years. She was of a quiet disposition, but her friends were numerous and her departure is very much regretted by all.

She was a daughter of Elias and Hannah Dudley and was born near Fairmont, WV, Nov. 7, 1832. She was united in marriage with Joseph T. Fleming May 29, 1854, who survives her. To this union nine children were born, two of whom are still living - J.T. Fleming, Jr. of Rockford, IL, and Eldon P. Fleming of this city. Deceased is also survived by two sisters, Mrs. Christina Youst and Mrs. Lou Williams, who reside near Fairmont, WV.

Mr. and Mrs. Fleming removed to Warsaw, IL, in 1857, which was their home for about four years. March 9, 1861, they removed to Fairfield, which has since been their home. Four years

ago last May, Mr. and Mrs. Fleming celebrated their golden wedding anniversary, which was largely attended. Mrs. Fleming became a member of the First Presbyterian church of this city March 9, 1873, and remained a faithful member of the same till the end came.

Funeral services were held at the First Presbyterian church Friday, Dec. 11, at ten o'clock a.m., and were conducted by Rev. [R.H.] Wightman. Interment in the city cemetery.
– Fairfield Republican

Berry Houser, Oct. 1811 - Dec. 16, 1908

Grandfather Berry Houser, who has been an invalid for several years due to paralysis and senility, passed away last Wednesday, Dec. 16th at the home of his sons in North Grayville, with whom he has resided since the death of his wife, which occurred Nov. 30, 1899.

Mr. Houser was born in Germany in Oct. 1811, being at the time of his death aged 97 years, 2 months, and 6 days. He came to this country when about 18 years of age and settled in St. Mary, MO, where he married and continued to reside until 1891 when he moved to Wayne Co, IL. In company with his sons, the only remaining children of a family of six born to him, he moved to Edwards county in 1903, the funeral taking place from their residence in North Grayville last Thursday afternoon, where brief services were held by Rev. Finn after which the remains were laid to rest in Oak Grove cemetery.