Mary Ann Turner, Feb. 17, 1822 - Aug. 25, 1899

Mrs. Mary A. Turner, one of the oldest and most highly respected citizens of Mt. Carmel, died at the family residence corner of Second and Chestnut streets, Friday, Aug. 25, at 7 p.m., the immediate cause of her death being the rheumatism of the heart. Mrs. Turner had been an invalid for a number of years past, and had been confined to her bed almost constantly since the beginning of the present year, during all of which time she had borne her sufferings with the utmost patience. She was a kind christian lady whose gentle disposition endeared her to all, and whose death cast a gloom over the entire community.

Mrs. Turner was the widow of the late Gilbert C. Turner, for many years a merchant, Justice of the Peace, and local minister. The surviving children are Mrs. J. Wilson Barber, Albion, Mrs. Rolla N. Blair, Chicago, Mrs. Roxanna Berry and Mrs. Frank Wallace, Mt. Carmel, and Mr. Charles Turner, DuQuoin. The funeral services were held at the residence Sunday afternoon at 4 o'clock, after which interment took place in Rose Hill cemetery. Rev. F.L. West, pastor of the M.E. church, and who conducted the funeral services, contributes the following.

'Mary Ann Turner, whose maiden name was Tilton, was born near Mt. Carmel, IL, Feb. 17, 1822, and died Aug. 25, 1899, aged 77 years, 6 months, and 8 days. More than sixty-one years ago, at the age of 16, she was married to Gilbert C. Turner, an efficient and faithful local preacher in the M.E. church, who died four years ago, the 8th of April last. For more than half a century, Gilbert C. Turner and his wife stood valiantly for God and righteousness and the church in this community. Their lives were built in the moral and religious fabric of society in this place. The influence of their lives will linger to make living in this community safer and easier for the generations to come.

The great central fact of sister Turner's life was not her birth in 1822, not her marriage at 16, but her conversion to God at the age of 10 at a Methodist camp-meeting held at the old Lebanon campground. She joined the church at that time and continued a consistent member - never bringing reproach on the church or upon Christ by neglect or disregard of the vows she had taken. None who desire to honor her life and memory could do so more effectually than by following her example in her faithfulness and devotion to Christ and to the church. Many a parent is dishonored by disregarding the great truths and objects to which they consecrated their lives. The influence of these noble lives will live and their —- be cherished for time to come.'