

DEATH OF MRS. G. A. BANKS
PIONEER RESIDENT
LONG IN FRAIL HEALTH.

Mrs. Banks Was One of the Brave Women Who Passed Through Terrors of Raid.

The death of Mrs. George A. Banks occurred Sunday about noon at her home at 1345 Tennessee street. Mrs. Banks was one of the pioneer women of Kansas, passing through the awful terrors of the Quantrell raid, in which her husband, Dr. Griswold, was killed. She has been in frail health for many months, but has been able to be up and about her home much of the time of recent weeks.

She was born on September 18, 1836, and was married to Judge Banks in 1870. Mrs. Nellie G. Beatty, a daughter, and Mr. Frank E. Banks, a son, survive.

The funeral will be held from the home on south Tennessee street tomorrow afternoon at 2 o'clock. Rev. O. C. Brown, of the First Baptist church, officiating.

The very sudden death of Mrs. Banks from bronchial pneumonia came as a great shock and grief to her family and a large circle of neighbors and friends. While Mrs. Banks had been far from well, for some weeks, her condition was not considered serious until within a few hours of the final summons.

Helen Mary Hewitt was born in North Granville, New York, September 18, 1836. She was educated at the public schools and at the Greenville Academy, then a thriving educational institution in the village. In the spring of 1850 she moved with her father's family, consisting of her father, mother, two brothers, and two sisters, to Winona county, Minnesota, teaching the first school in that county the following summer. She had taught country school in New York from the age of sixteen.

But the following summer, having become greatly interested in the Kansas struggle, through the columns of the "Herald of Freedom," then published by her mother's cousin, G. W. Brown, and having a clerkship offered her in the office of that paper, she came to Kansas, arriving here July 13, 1857. Here she met and became engaged to Dr. Jerome Francis Griswold, returning to her Minnesota home to make preparations to be married the following spring, while the new home was being built.

As the time approached it became evident that Dr. Griswold could not leave his business—he was a druggist—in the hands of his private clerk, and after some persuasion the bride-to-be consented to return. Dr. Griswold, with great tact, made the way easy and trouble-free on the occasion. The wedding took place in the Congregational church, then only walls with the windows in and seated with rude benches, May 9, 1859.

The years following were beautiful and happy ones. Two dear children were born to them. In April, 1863, a proud and happy wife and mother with her two little ones went home for the first visit after marriage. In June the husband followed, and from Minnesota after a few weeks' stay, he took his family to Fort Wayne, Indiana, to visit with his mother. All returned to Lawrence the evening of August 20th. On the morning of August 21, known in Kansas history as our "black Friday," came the terrible Quantrell massacre and the subject of this sketch was made a widow and her children fatherless.

In time Lawrence arose from the ashes and with it a public library to which the widowed mother was elected librarian. She remained its custodian until her marriage with Mr. Geo. A. Banks, September 5, 1870. Two children were born to them. Carrie Jane, who died in infancy and Frank Elliott, who in later life joined his father in business.

After nearly forty years of almost perfect companionship, Mr. Banks passed to the great beyond leaving Mrs. Banks to the gentle care of her daughter, Mrs. Nellie Griswold Beatty, and her son, Mr. Frank Banks, and his wife, all of whom survive.

Mrs. Banks is among the last of the noble and beautiful women on the early history of this town to pass to her reward. She was a woman most lovely character and disposition, aptly described by Lowell's line "earth's noblest thing—a woman perfected." She loved her friends to a marked degree and was never so happy as when she had them in her home, her engaging personality adding a final charm to all her entertainments.

She was always charitable in her judgments in things great and small, seeing the best in people and knowing that human nature is frail and prone to error often without intent. Mrs. Banks always felt a keen interest in the life of the town, in the church, in the literary club, in the struggle for social betterment, and in all the various interests that appeal especially to women. Her kindnesses to the needy, to the downcast, and the disheartened were endless and the sweetness and light that radiated from her cheered the path-way of many a discouraged soul.

And now she has gone, ready and willing, a sweet and shining example for all who are left behind.

"And a day less or more
 At sea or on shore
 We die—does it matter when?"