

March 26, 1881

J.W. BOSWELL born in Georgia, June 1826; moved to Talladega Co., Ala. in the spring of 1848; died February 20, 1881.

NANCY DICKINS daughter of William and Matilda Crosslin, born Feb. 12, 1813; married the Rev. John A. Dickins (died February 22, 1862), in 1833; died Feb. 6, 1881.

Dr. JAMES M. WILSON born Pendleton Co., Ky., December 23, 1804; died Falmouth, Ky., February 13, 1881; married Cerrelda Thomas, January 1830; joined the Methodist Church in 1828.

WINNEY BLACK born in So. Carolina, 1825; died Scott Co., Ark., Feb. 7, 1881; daughter of the Rev. Thomas Payne who moved his family to Habersham Co., Ga.; married James C. Black in 1842; twelve children; in 1870 moved from Ga. to Scott Co., Arkansas.

DAVID SEARCY GREER, 1804-1881:

A long warfare was ended in a triumphant victory. DAVID SEARCY GREER, whose life for the past half century has been a living example of Christian meekness, died at his residence near Memphis, Tenn., Feb. 17, 1881. He was born in Clark county, Ga., Aug. 21, 1804. He was carried by his father, while quite an infant, to Robertson county, Tenn., where he was reared to the age of 17 years. He then removed to Henry county, Tenn., and lived near where now stands the town of Paris, before the lots were sold on which the town is settled. In the year 1835 he was happily married to Martha Jane Dunlap, who, after a happy union of forty six years, now weeps the bitter tears of widowhood. Soon after his marriage he removed to Marshall county, Miss., assisted in locating and laying off the now beautiful town of Holly Springs, and represented the county in the State Legislature one term. Thence, in 1843, he removed to Memphis, Tenn., and since that time has been a valuable citizen and resident of Shelby county. He was a man of sound judgment, superior business qualifications, and of indomitable energy and industry, consequently he succeeded in all his business enterprises, and no man, at the close of a long and active life, can show a more unquestionable record than could he. But the most beautiful feature of his long and useful life, shone out through his Christian piety. He was converted in 1830, at Neal's Chapel, in Henry county, Tenn., under the preaching of that good and zealous man, Rev. Samuel Gilliland, whom he ever afterward gratefully remembered. The Methodist Church being the one of his choice, he united himself with it, and her roll never, perhaps, contained a worthier name than that of David S. Greer. He was a Connectional man in his feelings, loved the Methodist Church in all its parts, and took an interest in all its enterprises, and contributed liberally to its various interests. He was jealous for the reputation of the Church of his Master. Though he had that charity that "suffereth long," yet he was strong and emphatic in his disapproval of any thing that would cast the shadow of a reflection on the character of the Church. He made his religion and his Christian duties paramount to every thing else. He dared, under all circumstances, to do right, and no emergency could induce him to vary in any instance from the strictest rules of

Christian piety. One who knew him long and intimately, said: "David S. Greer was the most conscientious man I ever knew." Being very quiet and unassuming, none but those who were so fortunate as to know him intimately could properly appreciate his many virtues. For many years he served as an official member of the Church, and never was there a truer friend to Methodist preachers than was he. The writer feels better for having shared his fatherly advice and salutary benedictions. He was a constant and prayerful reader of his Bible. The following note, written by his own hand many years ago, and found in his Bible, gives a true insight to his religious experience: "I have read the Bible through twenty-four times, and it has become such a source of pleasure to me that it almost seems a part of my existence. I thank the Lord for such a great blessing, and pray that he may continue to make me a meek and humble Bible reader." Truly, it was a part of his existence, for he feasted upon its precious truths daily, and fashioned his life after the highest type of Christian character therein portrayed. And his prayer was answered, for he told the writer, in a religious conversation a short time before his death, that he had read the Bible through consecutively thirty-seven times, and remarked that he always found something new. By many years of prayerful research in this rich mine of divine truth, he accumulated a large stock of that "wisdom which cometh down from above." For fifty years he had been "growing in grace and in the knowledge of Christ." He had tasted of the "depths of the riches of the knowledge of Christ Jesus his Lord," and had realized that "the path of the just is, as a shining light that shineth more and more unto the perfect day." He lived in daily communion with God, and often spoke of his prospect of soon getting home to heaven. His death was quite sudden, but the summons found him ready. He quietly exchanged his long tried armor for a robe of spotless white, and mounted up the shining way, to be crowned a victor in the courts of Him whom he had so long and so faithfully served. Thus lived and thus died "an Israelite in whom was no guile." Earth has been blessed and heaven enriched by the gentle spirit of David S. Greer.

R. N. FREEMAN.

Memphis, Tenn.

NOTE: In a biographical sketch of John R. Greer (1855-1931) it was stated about his father, David Searcy Greer, that he "was a native of Clark County, Ga.; his parents moved to Tennessee and settled in Robertson County when he was but an infant; a few years later they moved to Henry County and settled within a few miles of where Paris now stands and he