

Decatur Daily Democrat, Decatur, Adams County, Indiana, Monday, February 21, 1916

A PIONEER LADY

Mrs. Mary Teeple Dead at Geneva at Age of Eighty-two Years.

A PARALYTIC STROKE

Came Upon Her Saturday Evening - Funeral Will be Tuesday.

Mrs. Mary Teeple, widow of James Teeple, formerly of east of this city, died Sunday morning at four o'clock at her home in Geneva. She had been afflicted with paralysis since Saturday evening at about four o'clock and her death was due to that.

Mrs. Teeple was the daughter of Zachariah Smith and resided east of the city for many years. She was 82 years of age last January 20. She was one of the best known ladies of the county, being one of its pioneer residents.

There are four children - Isaac of east of Decatur; Samuel Teeple, formerly of Decatur, now of Geneva; Mrs. Sarah Ayres and Mrs. John Case, of near Willshire, O. Mrs. Catherine Teeple, Mrs. Irvin Acker, Mrs. Martha Frisinger and Joe Smith are sisters and brother. The deceased is also an aunt of Mrs. J. L. Gay of this city.

The funeral will be held in Geneva Tuesday morning at ten o'clock. Many from here will attend.

The Fort Wayne Sentinel (IN), Tuesday, February 22, 1916

MRS. TEEPLE DEAD AT GENEVA

Decatur, Ind., Feb. 22 - A long and useful life closed when Mrs. Mary Teeple, widow of the late James Teeple, passed away at her home in Geneva, Sunday morning. Mrs. Teeple was 82 years old and practically her entire life was spend in Adams county. She was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Zachariah Smith, early settlers of Adams county, who located just east of Decatur. The father was the first sheriff of Adams county and lost his life by drowning in the St. Marys river near where is now located the Monroe-street bridge. By his death the mother and a large family of children were left to care for themselves. Mrs. Teeple grew to womanhood in St. Marys township and there she was married to James Teeple. The husband passed away many years ago. Four children survive.

Same article in The Fort Wayne Weekly Sentinel (Fort Wayne, Indiana) Wednesday, February 23, 1916

Geneva Herald, Adams Co, IN; Thursday, February 24, 1916

Mary Smith Teeple, daughter of Zachariah Smith, was born in Fayette county, Ohio, January 25, 1834, and died at her home in Geneva on Sunday, February 20, 1916, age eighty-two years and twenty-five days.

When but one year old with her parents she came to Indiana. The family located in Adams county, where her childhood and youth were spent.

In January 1850, she was united in marriage to James B. Teeple. To this union were born nine children, of whom five died in infancy.

After traveling together in married life for over forty-six years with her husband death again broke upon the family circle and in 1896 her companion left her to mourn and walk alone.

Over eighty years ago she came to Adams county, and was indeed a pioneer. Few knew better than she the strenuous life of those early days and none devoted himself to the accomplishment of the arduous duties that led to success, more than this young wife of some three score years ago. When her husband answered the call of his country and left family and home for his country's defense, she did not despair of the great task of caring for the family. Her acknowledged frugality she summoned to aid in every department of the home, and when her soldier husband returned he found heavy debts paid and general prosperity made possible by her tireless hands.

When a girl early in her 'teens she united with the church, and to the close of life, the thought of sincere and consistent Christian living had first place in her mind. Few, if any, were more constant and devoted readers of God's Word than she. It was her daily habit to read thoughtfully and prayerfully its pages; for therein she found the way to God, the way to peace and the way to heaven.

She was not only the queen of the home as her friends knew her, but to her children and grandchildren she will ever be remembered as the devoted mother of the home. Kind and generous to a marked degree, she had not plans that did not include the pleasure and the welfare of the children and it seemed scarcely possible for her to grow weary in her devoted efforts to make them happy.

She delighted in, and thanked God for, health and strength during the many years, to do her work and to require no attendant. And she frequently asked her Heavenly Father that this favor might be granted her to the close of her life. As God heard and answered former petitions, so He again answered this, her last request, and last Saturday while attending to accustomed home duties the announcement of the approaching end was given; and with the opening hours of the Lord's Day there came for her the opening moments of the eternal Sabbath, the rest that remains for the people of God.

There survives, of the family, to bless her memory, two sons and two daughters, namely: Isaac and Samuel H.; Sarah Ayers and Catherine Case; 22 grandchildren and 16 great grandchildren. And of the nine children of her father's family, there survive three sisters and one brother.