

Services at Greenwich Church, Prince William County, Virginia. In Memoriam

During the past winter, we briefly noted the demise of Mrs. Aminta E. Moxley of the Grove, near Greenwich, Virginia. This most estimable lady, venerable in the teachings of life of four-score- had for nearly sixty years been the stay and succour of Presbyterianism in her neighborhood. For sometime, she was the sole representative for that faith in her district, and in her farm "Homestead", were the first Presbyterian services periodically held. In due time, a rude log-house was erected to serve as a church, and old neighbors tell how the then widowed mother might be seen leading her four little orphan girls to worship in this humble fane with here and there a traveler. Through the day of this log-house, and yet a larger one replacing it, she struggled on for the cause, and many a way faring preacher welcomed at her hospitable porch was constrained to stay over the Sabbath for "preaching". Her dignity of character, her strong sense, the beauty of her life, won for her the respect and veneration of all, and commanded an influence which resulted in the erection of a third and more commodious Church, at a cost of between \$3,000 and \$4,000. She was spared to see the Dedication Service; and then "the reaper's toil was done". She was called home by sudden agency, falling asleep without a struggle on the last day of the past year (31st. Dec. 1858). And on the last Sabbath in June when children and grandchildren and sorrowing friends were gathered from distant parts, was her funeral service preached. There was a fitness in committing this task to the able hands of Dr. J. M. P. Atkinson of Washington, D. C. who, sixteen years gone, broke to the little band of worshippers at Greenwich, the solid bread of life, and thus established a cherished friendship with the deceased, terminated only by death. The reverend gentleman preached to a crowded auditory from John XIV- "Let not your heart be troubled-". "In my Father's House are many Mansions," etc; and sketching the graceful character of the Mother in Israel with touching fidelity, enjoined her example upon her survivors. In the shadow of the Church she loved and prayed for was a grassy mound - the first grave in the Churchyard-. No stone was raised, but little white flowers laid there by the hand of affection, mutely told her resting place. Excellent woman! She opened her mouth with wisdom, and in her tongue was the law of kindness- children and children's children, shall rise up and call her blessed. Light lie the green turf on that great heart, which throbbing with love for all beat yet strongest in the Master's cause!

(Copied from a newspaper clipping written during the summer of 1859.)

Aminta Elizabeth Moxley, wife of Gilbert Ireland Moxley, and daughter of Benjamin Douglass, was born at Newport, near Port Tobacco, Charles County, Md., April 1st, 1777. Married April 22nd, 1802, and settled at "The Grove", Greenwich, Va. She died at "The Grove", Greenwich, Va. December 31st, 1858. Her children were:
Anne Dent Douglass (Moxley), wife of Thomas L. Hunton, of Virginia.
Lucinda Ireland, first wife of Frances Sorrel, of Savannah, Ga.
Matilda Anne (Moxley), second wife of Francis Sorrel, of Savannah, Ga.
Sophia Mary Parnham, wife of James Isom Fisher, of Baltimore, Md.
Benjamin Gustavus Douglass, husband of Louisa Scott, of Missouri, (1st wife)
And husband of Harriet E. Blackwell, of Va. (2nd wife)