

Obituary 1937 Limestone Democrat

Mrs. **MARGARET L. BRYANT**, aged 96 years passed away Monday March 8, at her home in Salem, surrounded by devoted children and grandchildren. Funeral service, conducted by the Reverends C. M. Hullett and Claud Harrison, the latter of the Church of Christ, were held in the Methodist church Tuesday with interment in the Salem Cemetery, Spry in charge.

Mrs. **BRYANT** was one of, if not the oldest, residents of Limestone County where much of her eventful life was spent. She was born in Giles County, Tennessee, September 20, 1841 and lived for some years in Lincoln County, Tennessee near Fayetteville. Her life-span of nearly a century, held much of romance and adventure of which she talked most entertainingly. She was married in early life to **JOE MCCOY** and for a wedding trip they embarked in a prairie schooner for Texas. The couple was attacked on the way by a band of Indians who took their food and money. When they left section they meant to make their permanent home in the West, but after a few years of that rugged life decided to return to Alabama with their young son **JOE, JR.**, grandfather of **GILBERT MCCOY** of Athens, and Mrs. **MARJORIE HILTY** of Birmingham, only descendants of this union. The return trip was fraught with tragedy, the husband dying when they were still far from home. The young widow finished the sad journey by stage coach.

A few years passed and the deceased was married to **HENRY BRYANT**, whose death occurred soon after the close of the War Between the States. Of this union there were three daughters, two of whom, Mrs. **BETTIE CORDER** and Mrs. **E. B. CROLEY**, survive their mother. One daughter and the only son preceded her to the grave several years ago.

Mrs. **BRYANT** came of remarkable family stock, as was evidenced in her mind and character. She was one of 12 children, born to a mother who lived to be 94 years of age. Perhaps the pioneering spirit came from her paternal grandfather, or even further back, since he was born on ship-board as his parents crossed the Atlantic for the New World memory was a storehouse of facts and events which some of her progeny should have written down, for the benefit of yet unborn generations. She heard of was present when Henry Clay and James K. Polk, opposing candidates for the presidency of the United States, spoke in joint debate at Elkton, Tennessee. Decorations on this occasion were poke berries and red clay.

Like many another splendid women of Civil War days Mrs. **BRYANT** assumed the cares left by brothers who were in the Confederate Army, sewed for the soldiers, nursed the sick and kept in safety valuables left in her charge.

It is not strange that the passing of such a forceful, personality should leave a void that cannot be filled, for there are few of her kind and generation left. To those to whom she has left the heritage of a life of such usefulness, the Democrat joins many others in heartfelt sympathy.