

## LIVED IN COOPER COUNTY SEVENTY-EIGHT YEARS

One of the Pioneer Women of Otterville Passes Away September 29. Mrs. Amanda Starke Reached the Advanced Age of 88 Years.

BORN IN VIRGINIA IN 1829.

[C. H. Harnett in Otterville Mail]

One of Otterville's best women went to heaven when Mrs. Starke passed away on September 29th, 1917. She had been ill for some time, and her departure was not unexpected. From the writing of her own pen we copy the following biographical lines:

"Amanda Homan was born in New Market, Shenandoah county, Virginia, on April 4th, 1829. She came to Missouri with her father's family and settled near Otterville in 1839. She was married to Thomas J. Starke in 1847, and to this union seven children were born. The oldest, Rufus B., died in infancy. Three daughters and three sons lived to womanhood and manhood. In 1856 she joined the Methodist church. Her son, Geo. W. Starke, died May 2nd, 1886. Her husband, Thomas J. Starke, died June 27th, 1908. Edie H. Spillers died January 13th, 1913. Fannie Starke Koontz died December 25th, 1916. There are three children living—Belle Starke Minter of Otterville, Neal Starke of New York City and Homan Starke of Dallas, Texas. She has three grand children living—Dollie Cline Griffin of Otterville, and Gertrude Koontz Summers of Boonville and

Starke Koontz of Boonville. She has five great grandchildren living, Francis and David Koontz and Anna Belle and Mary Starke Summers of Boonville and Edwin Wherley of Otterville."

It would be difficult, indeed, for the writer to give expression to the real value and beauty of the long life of Mrs. Starke. She was one of those splendid women whose life combined strength and tenderness, love and justice, beauty and service. She was a Christian first and a ways. She sought the presence and comfort of her Master and it was her pleasure to reflect His likeness to those with whom she was associated. She made happy the life and home of her husband, who chose her from among all the women he knew to be his very own. After he "crossed the Bar" she lingered beautifully and tenderly in the old home smiling and weeping over the pages of memory's volume while patiently she waited the coming of her Lord. It was a blessing to minister to her and to be ministered unto by her during those days of waiting. Her maternal instinct was strong and she pined for her children. She was happiest when they were near. Those living were with her when her passing occurred on the day above written.

After a life of more than eighty years—a life full of good works, full of love and service, full of the grace of womanhood, wifehood and motherhood, she passed quietly, serenely and beautifully into the victory of that rest that remaineth to the people of God. Truly it can be said of her that she was ready and waiting for the coming of the King.