

Mrs. Jennie B. Simons, known as the Widow Simons, was one of the early settlers of Hodgeman county, ^{coming to Kansas in the spring of 1878 and} settling on a farm about ten miles due west from the town of Burdette, which at the time was known as Brown's Grove.

Jennie B. Gowdy was born in Constantia, N. Y., April 12th, 1836, Mr. and Mrs. Collins Gowdy and with her parents moved to Illinois where they settled at Waukegan. She was educated at a private academy and at Hillsdale college. She became engaged to Adolphus E. Simons at about the time of his enlistment in response to Lincoln's call for 100,000 men and was married to him ~~on~~ July 3rd, 1866, after he had completed five years' service.

Two children, Julia M. and Etoile B., were born in Illinois after which they moved to Minnesota where three other children, ~~Willard~~ Wilford Collins, Louis Adolphus and ~~Jennie~~ Jennie Grace were born. Mr. Simons' health had been undermined by his army service and finding the climate of Minnesota too severe had decided on moving to Texas, but these plans had not been followed when he died Oct. 29th, 1877.

After the death of her husband Mrs Simons decided to come to Kansas together with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Collins Gowdy, and her brothers Dr. A. S. Gowdy and Joseph Gowdy and their families. The several families found rooms in what was then known as the old stone block at Larned where they lived until homes were built on the claims in Hodgeman county. These homes were ready in March, but it necessitated a short stay at ^{Duncan's} ~~Duncan's~~ ranch, located on the Pawnee creek at the crossing of the old Hays and Dodge trail.

Mrs. ~~Gowdy~~ Collins Gowdy died during the first year and Mr. Gowdy made his home with his daughter. The few hundred dollars brought to Kansas by Mrs. Simons were soon spent in necessary improvements and living expenses and she and her family went through several extremely hard ~~and~~ years.