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An attractive, cultured, christian woman, Mrs. Simons made friends with the leading people of Pawnee and Hodgeman counties and when the latter county was organized was offered the position of Superintendent of Schools by both the Republican and Democratic ^{although bitterly pressed for money she} parties, but withdrew in favor of a veteran who had lost a leg in the civil war.

Her devotion to her children and the fear of placing a step father over them, caused her to refuse ~~several offers~~ ^{proposals} of marriage, several of which came from men of wealth and would have given her ease instead of the privation which she faced and endured.

Mrs. Simons taught the first school ever held at Marena, now Hanston, Kansas, and received twenty dollars a month for three months and boarded around. Afterwards she taught for several years as did also the two girls Julia and Etoile. ~~The~~ W. C. Simons, oldest son, also taught for one term.

Among the schools taught by Mrs. Simons were those at Marena, Hodgeman, Middlebranch; ~~Orwell~~ Orwell, or Sawlog; Jetmore; the Waterman school near Fort Larned and one or two other schools near Larned. She held a first grade certificate and was considered one of the best teachers in the county.

Mrs. Simons brought to Kansas some fine Hambletonian horses and for many years her stock was perhaps the finest in the western part of the state. Her home was always open to everyone who came and was never locked even in the absence of the family. For a time ~~it was~~ ^{an} ~~the only occupied~~ there was not ~~another~~ occupied house on the old trail between her home and Dodge City, a distance of thirty-seven miles, and her home became well known as a stopping place. No charge was ever made to those who came and the itinerant preachers who occasionally went through the country always found a welcome in her home.