

CHAPTER III.

MEMORIAL TO MRS. FANNIE GEIGER THOMPSON.

"To write the history of a noble and useful woman, whose influence and work were always for the happiness of her associates and friends, is a task which should be undertaken only by those who knew her most intimately. The highest tribute that can be paid to Mrs. Thompson is that she represented the best and most exalted type of womanhood, and that her mission in life was to do good to all with whom she came in contact.

"Mrs. Fannie Geiger Thompson was born January 1st, 1857, at Martin's Ferry, Ohio, just opposite Wheeling, West Virginia. Soon after her birth, her father moved with his family to Columbus, Ohio. They lived a short time in Louisville, Kentucky, during the war, Mr. Geiger being an army contractor for a time. In 1867, the family came to Topeka, Kansas, where they remained a year, and from there they went to Ellsworth, then away out on the frontier. But the danger there to the family caused them to move back to Topeka. Fannie Geiger attended school in the old Bethany College building at Ninth street and Topeka avenue, and also in the present building after its erection. She was married to Dr. Alton H. Thompson on December 9th, 1875. They had two children: Isabel, born 1880, and Wallace, born in 1883. Isabel died in

1897, and from this great grief Mrs. Thompson never fully recovered, but with her sweet self-sacrificing spirit she took up the work nearest at hand, and in her position as President of the Women's Clubs in Topeka she took an active part in the movement to decorate and furnish the public school-rooms, and through her enthusiasm much was accomplished in this direction.

"At the time of her death, in Topeka, on February 17th, 1903, Mrs. Thompson was the State Regent of the Daughters of the American Revolution in Kansas. To this position she was elected at the annual conference held in Wichita in October, 1901. She was intensely interested in all work of the Daughters of the American Revolution, both State and National, taking a lively interest in Memorial Continental Hall and seconding in every way the efforts of the National Society officers. Mrs. Thompson attended one Continental Congress in Washington, and her report was the feature of the Conference at Lawrence in 1899. It was her great desire that the chapters throughout the State should make a feature of their work the marking of historic sites. One of her last interests was the Old Santa Fé Trail, which she hoped might be well located some day and be marked by a line of monuments across the State; and it was her enthusiasm and persistence that first awakened interest in the subject, not only in the Topeka Chapter but throughout the State. It was her hope that the Daughters of the American Revolution might be instrumental in accomplishing this important historical work. Her untimely death pre-

vented her from doing more than outline the work. There will be a memorial tablet to Mrs. Thompson among the monuments along the Santa Fé Trail. As a loyal, patriotic, and active member of our organization, Mrs. Thompson had no superior. Being the great-granddaughter of Lieutenant William Wallace, who was with Washington's army during that terrible winter at Valley Forge, she naturally inherited that intense love of country which made her conspicuous as a member of our organization.

"All who knew her, and particularly the Kansas Daughters, hold in loving remembrance and hearty appreciation the sweet nature, charming manner, ready mind, loving heart, and noble soul of Mrs. Thompson."

Committee: { Mrs. LUTHER BURNS, Topeka.
 { Mrs. MARY C. HILDRETH, Newton.
 { Mrs. E. D. KIMBALL, Wichita.

Adopted at Wichita, November, 1905.