

NECROLOGY

VIRGINIA STAFFORD HANDCOCK
1859-1943

Virginia Stafford Handcock (Mrs. Numa F.), the daughter of A. J. and Cornelia Price Stafford, was born in what is now Winston-Salem, North Carolina, on July 15, 1859. After the death of her father, who as a Confederate soldier, was killed in battle in the war between the states, his widow with her two young children, Virginia and Jack, moved to Lexington, Kentucky. The mother obtained a position on the teaching staff of the Sayre Female Institute of that city, thereby being enabled to support herself and her two small children. Mrs. Handcock received her education at the said institute and after her graduation taught in girls' schools in the states of Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee.

On November 14, 1896, she married Numa F. Handcock of Reidsville, North Carolina, at Winston-Salem. Immediately thereafter the young couple set out for the Indian Territory to make their permanent abode, the groom having previously established himself west of the Mississippi River, first at Little Rock, Arkansas, and later in Indian Territory. They were met in Vinita by the late Dr. Francis Bartow Fite, a pioneer physician and surgeon of Eastern Indian Territory and afterwards Oklahoma, and Dr. Milton K. Thompson who for many years has been and now is an active eye, ear, nose and throat specialist of Muskogee. The Handcocks first settled in Pryor, Indian Territory, but soon thereafter moved their residence to Muskogee where they continuously resided the remainder of their lives, except Mrs. Handcock, shortly prior to her death, which occurred on March 6, 1943, spent the last few months of her life in the city of her birth with her only daughter, Mrs. Allen K. Owen of Winston-Salem. Mrs. Handcock's remains were returned to Muskogee and on Wednesday, the 9th of March, 1943, were laid to rest in the family plot in Greenhill City Cemetery at Muskogee by the side of the graves of her husband who died September 8, 1938, and her son Allen, who died at an early age.

The list of pallbearers which follows, both active and honorary, discloses a wide circle of friends: Active, Dr. Charles Edward White, Paul Rowsey, Dr. Pat Fite, E. A. Graham, William Jones Cook and George Leopold; honorary, Marshall Cook, E. D. Sweeney, W. E. Rowsey, Grant Foreman, Ned Grubbs, Charles W. Mandler, Fred Wendroth, Benjamin Martin, Dr. M. K. Thompson, James L. Wagner, and Dr. Halsell Fite all of Muskogee; M. D. Green, Oklahoma City; William O. Beall, David F. Dickey, William Cochran and Col. Clarence B. Douglas, of Tulsa.

Mrs. Handcock was a charter member of General Forrest chapter of the Daughters of the Confederacy and also a charter member of the St. Pauls Methodist Church of Muskogee. She made many friends and numerous were her acts of charity though not known, except to herself and the donees. Among the many who admired the beautiful and noble qualities of this fine Christian woman is our former United States Senator, Robert L. Owen, who was one of the early residents of Muskogee and whose official residence is still Muskogee, but who now lives in Washington, D. C. Upon learning of the death of Mrs. Handcock he sent the following telegram: "Washington, D. C. March 8, 1943. Benjamin Martin, Muskogee, Oklahoma. My sympathies to the friends and family of Mrs. Handcock whom I deeply honored for her angelic disposition in loving other people. Robert L. Owen."

—Benjamin Martin.

Muskogee, Oklahoma.