

Information on Elisha Thomas Ridings donated
 by: Stephen
 East Ridings
 934 East Madison
 Morton, IL 61550
 Company A, 117th Inf. Reg.

obtainable of my dear father and
 Dear Brother: I send you the
 Eld. J. M. Perkins,

Christ and united with the Cumberland Presbyterian church.
 In 1864 she united with the Primitive Baptist church at Mt. Tabor and was baptized by Elder W. W. Sammons, where she remained a faithful member until her death. Her orderly walk and godly conversation proving her faith in the Saviour.

It is not often our lot to mourn the loss of one who possessed so many excellent and lovable traits as did our dear Aunt Margaret.

Hers was a bright, sunny temperament. Dark care and gloomy foreboding fled at her approach, and all who associated with her felt the influence of her strong, hopeful nature. She won the hearts alike of old and young and readily adapted herself to the society of either.

In October 1854, she was married to John H. Sammons. To this union were born twelve children, eight boys and four girls. They lived happily together twenty-six years when on Jan. 1880, he was taken, leaving her with ten children to mourn their loss (two children having gone before.)

Possessing great energy and perseverance, she, by her good management, raised them all to grown and settled in life and her Saviour granted her desire.

drawn, with pain, no emaciated forms, but one grand, glorious everlasting day of joy.

Thanks be to God which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Written by request by her niece,

BELLE M. JONES,
 Crewy, Tenn.

April 14, 1900.

It becomes our painful duty to write the obituary of our much beloved and highly esteemed brother, Eld. E. T. Ridings, who was born Feb. 23, 1839, was married to Mary E. McIntosh Dec. 1, 1867; joined the Primitive Baptist church and was baptized by Eld. S. French the third Sunday in February (same year that he was married, I infer from a letter I have, of instructions) and was soon afterwards liberated to preach and was ordained to the work of the ministry by the laying on of hands of Elders Samuel French, J. J. Fuqua and J. D. Jones, Oct. 12, 1878.

After a severe suffering of more than two years he died July 10, 1900, aged 61 years 8 months and 21 days. Dear Brother Ridings just before his summons, called all the family around his bed, took them one by one in his cold and icy hands and talked much. He said that

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 A CHURCH LETTER.

works, and depends on ourselves

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he wanted to live in the memory of all the little grand-children. A few weeks before he died he awoke his dear wife and little daughter by praying, and they heard him preach as sweet a discourse as they had ever heard him. There were many relatives and friends around him while dying. The Lord saw fit to take him from the loving company of a loving wife and dutiful children which made up an humble and welcome home for the Primitive Baptists. Dear Sister Ridings and children, may you have of the riches of God's grace to enable you to bear up under this sore trial. You have lost, here on earth, one dear tie of nature, one who was firm to the doctrine of grace. It is consoling to think how he so patiently endured all the temptations and persecutions that befell him in this world below. I have often heard him speak of his hope which had kept him through bloody war. But alas! to us he is gone. His voice is stilled in death, yet he speaks in the memory of all his dear brethren and sisters, friends and relatives. The precious doctrine that he taught has landed him safely through this sad world to a world of everlasting glory. His lifeless body lies in the cold ground awaiting the sounding of the last loud trumpet; then it will come forth in the likeness of Jesus. May God prosper us all by heavenly grace to meet this loved one in that glory land, is the humble prayer of one who dearly loved the subject of this obituary, and had he have gotten well, no doubt would have traveled many more miles together, as we had done before. Farewell.

J. R. HATCHER.

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A CHURCH LETTER.

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is by grace through faith unto the end. Here then, is the preservation of saints in time. This other new saviour baby, recently born of the will of the flesh, is too young to be exercising so much power yet; he is too young. He is not the babe of Bethlehem.

Ed.

Elder J. M. Perkins,
Mayfield, Ky.

My Dear Brother: Your welcome letter received Sunday morning, and glad to hear from you, especially of your excellent association, and I rejoice with you in this success for the truth, and that the Lord is so strengthening the true soldiers of the cross of Christ in your country, where you have been so much persecuted and tried for the truth's sake. Truly the Scripture is fulfilled: "When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him." Here are two "shalls," and so it shall be, for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it. "The purpose of God, it shall stand." Men may find fault, object, and contend that things may or they may, not, be so, in order to limit God's sovereignty, and establish chance, or man's free will, against God's omnipotence and omniscience; but yet it all amounts to nothing, for God saw and declared the END from the BEGINNING, and declared it, so shall it be. The thoughts of his heart extendeth to all generations, he declares, and as well to all events, subjecting all to his own sovereign control. Well is it for the world that it is thus: for were it not for the omnipotent power of the Almighty, who holds the elements of destruction in his fists, and the wrath of man as well, mad chaos and the fury of unchained and ungoverned worlds and men and devils must have entailed universal destruction upon all.

omnipotent and glad and rejoiced to him." I think that saints are given honour because he doth rule the universe; for our being and salvation.

It was my lately to spend with our dear the gospel of C in Ohio, at five hear him say the gospel, in words of man's demonstration in power, great of believers in ses the boldness pered with the lamb & child strong in the power of his might the Lord says will give you peace to mine heart, and you with knowledge standing." He said them, and they flock thus. How this is! How are the Lord's "shalls" concerning his servants and contingencies or unto him. He says, "of the kingdom shall be given unto all nations: the end come." truly as the Lord said so SHALL there be chosen and faithful his, and they shall have the gospel of our Lord grace. So you found at your late association glorious reason is, "the reign in righteousness bold, the Lord God with strong hand, and his rule for him. He