

The following is from an newspaper article that was sent to us, no date was on the paper and the name of the newspaper was not listed:

MRS. JULIA FINLEY DIES AT HOME IN COMMERCE

Friends all over Southeast Missouri were grieved on Friday to learn of the death, at Commerce, of Grandma Finley, who had lived to the age of 100 years 8 months and 7 days. She had been seriously sick only a few days, and had enjoyed reasonably good health for one of her advanced age, but about a week previous to her death she was taken ill and within a few days had passed away.

Julia Riggs was born at McMennerville, Tenn., November 19, 1828. At the age of ten years the family moved to Scott county, two miles below Benton in Sandywoods, where she resided for twenty-five years. In 1855 she married Willis Foster, with whom she lived for seven years and to them three children were born, all of whom are dead. Three years after the death of Mr. Foster she was married to Robert Wood Finley on October 26, 1865. Two children were born to this union, Selsia Finley and Robert W. Finley of Chaffee, the latter surviving. The husband died March 29, 1900.

Grand children who survive are Nora Joyce Ansell, Elmer Joyce, Addie Joyce Foster, Reta Finley, Richard Finley, Cecil Finley, Myres Finley, Jean Thomas, Virginia Thomas, Bobby Thomas. Great grand children are Henderson Winchester, Julia Ansell, Zelma Joyce, Hettie Joyce, Hazel Joyce, J. C. Joyce, Colleen Joyce, Juanita Joyce, ruth Joyce, James Joyce, Addie May Joyce, Elfreda Joyce, Mildred Foster, Mabel Foster and Lucille Foster. There are also several great grandchildren.

Besides her own family, Mrs. Finley reared nineteen orphans, some of whom survive and were at her bedside.

A Good Woman

Mrs. Julia Finley was one of the good women of Southeast Missouri, one of its pioneers who endured the hardships and privations of the early days, providing for herself and family during widowhood, and, when her last husband was in the Civil War, looking after the fam work and getting up fuel etc. She joined the Methodist church at the age of ten years at a camp meeting in Tennessee and had been a member of the church for over ninety years.

Grandma Finley was an active woman, always doing her part of church and community work. She always had a good garden and raised chickens, taking pride in the fact that she did the work herself. Her energy and activity were marvelous for one of her age, and even this year, when she had passed the 100th mile stone, she had her garden patch and a poultry yard full of fryers.

Funeral Service Sunday

Rev. A. B. Haltom of Commerce Methodist church preached the funeral service Sunday afternoon. He spoke of Mrs. Finley's faithfulness in church attendance, the last service she had been to was on Mother's Day. All during these years, when the weather permitted, Grandma Finley was in her pew at the church.

People from various parts of the Southeast were at the funeral and burial was made in the cemetery half a mile north of Kelso, where her two husbands are buried.

NOTE FROM EDITOR: Some said Mrs. Julia Finley was buried in the old Commerce/Anderson Cemetery on the hill in Commerce but the above article says she is buried at cemetery in Kelso.