

## **Life & Death of Bird Griffin**

By: Pastor P. C. Vinson

Mr. Bird Griffin was born in Halifax County, Virginia, Nov. 8, 1822. He died at his home in Wilson County, Texas, May 25, 1905. Mr. Griffin lived in Virginia until he was 24 years of age. He then moved to Smith County, Mississippi, where he lived four years. While there he married Miss Creacyann Flowers. They moved to Gonzales County, Texas, in 1852. After three years they settled down in Wilson County, where they lived until his death. They were blessed by the birth of twelve children-ten boys and two girls. Only seven survive him. They all live in the neighborhood near the old home. All have families except one, who remains single. The community as well as the family, are made to realize that they have lost their best friend. He could well be called the father of the neighborhood. He was about the first settler. He has been an honest, striving and determined man. He worked for the welfare of people as well as himself.

Grandfather Griffin built the first school house on his own land, which was used for church also. He has always helped those who needed help. So many can say "Grandpa Griffin gave me a start in life." He has been a Methodist for a long time, and gave liberally to the support of the church. His home has been the preachers home, and his doors have been open to the poor, the stranger and all. He was loved as a father by all who knew him.

Mr. Griffin was successful in life and leaves a handsome estate and property to his wife and heirs. His last days in this world were filled with agony and suffering. For seven weeks he lay at death's door. Everything that doctors and loved ones could do was done for his recovery and comfort; but human skill and strength were helpless. We had to submit to God's will. His last testimonies gave us the assurance that he is free from all pain and trouble now. A short while before he died there was a scene around his bed that anyone that was present will never

forget. A large crowd of relatives and friends were present. He spoke to the writer and said: "Bro. Vinson, I want you to pray with me. Sing "Amazing Grace." We sang and prayed with him. Then we sung many of the good old songs for him. He told us that he was going to heaven. He called for two or three and told them he wanted them to live better lives and follow him. He took each of us by the hand and told us good-bye, and said, "I want you to meet me in heaven, where we will never part. We were all made so happy. The time will never be forgotten. Several will remember it as the time when they decided to live a better life. Grandpa Griffin died Thursday evening, May 25th without a struggle. Oh! it is so hard, grandma, to give up the one who has been so dear a companion so long. He was dear to us all; but it is the sweetest consolation to know he has gone to heaven. You will soon be with him.

His Pastor,  
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