

Chilcote, Jane (1828-1901)

Jane Chilcote (1828-1901) was considered a pioneer in early Washington history. A few years after the death of her husband, in April 1895, Jane published a book entitled "The Morning Will Dawn." It focuses on life after death, from a Christian point of view, and contains essays written at different times.

From Page 2 of The Washington Democrat, published in Washington, Iowa on Wednesday, March 20th, 1901:

"A few years ago, after the death of her husband, Mrs. Dr. Chilcote, to while away the weary hours, had published a book entitled "The Morning Will Dawn." It treats of life in the hereafter, from the Christian's standpoint, and contains essays written at different times, and it is really quite an interesting collection.

It is full of hope and faith. She had no idea of putting the book on the market, but distributed it among her friends and gave her club friends each a copy. She was a member of the Reading Circle and of the Nineteenth Century club. She was always rather bookish and she enjoyed good literature greatly.

For her "the morning has dawned." She died last Wednesday afternoon at the home of her sister, Mrs. Cox in Chicago. She was there visiting when she was taken down and her brother, D. H. Ballard, was sent for and was present at her death.

She was 73 years old. She was born in Hendricks county, Ind., and came to Iowa with her husband, Dr. Chilcote, in 1853. Washington was but a hamlet of a few hundred at that time. She has been identified with the town from the beginning. Her husband, Dr. A. W. Chilcote, was one of the best known and one of the most useful men for the town and county. He grew wealthy here; that is, wealthy as men are called well to do in a country town. He never hoarded his money, but as they had no children, he was always a liberal giver. They gave liberally to all worthy enterprises, and Mrs. Chilcote did not cease to be philanthropic after her husband's death, but was always a willing giver to whatever came up worthy of support. She was a wonderfully good woman. She always retained her interest in the young people and was beloved by all her young friends. Their home life was what one might call ideal, as both were very domestic in their tastes, and after Dr. Chilcote's death in April, 1895, she was very lonely and was no doubt more than ready to go when the summons came. Her kindly face will be much missed in the town, as she was one of the best known women of the town.

There are surviving her, D. H. Ballard, a brother, of this city; M. D. Ballard of Seattle, also a brother, and Mrs. A. W. Cox, a sister at whose home she died in Chicago, and a sister, Mrs. J. R. Lewis of San Jose- Cal. The funeral was held Friday afternoon from the residence, and was conducted by Dr. Coxe and Rev. Schreckengast.

All the stores and the banks were closed Friday afternoon during the hour of Mrs. Chilcote's funeral, which was a creditable mark of respect to an old and honored pioneer. By the death of Mrs. Chilcote the town comes into possession of her elegant residence to be used as a library and it will be a delightful place for that purpose. She had so provided in her will.*"

*Jane had to purchase the residence from her husband's estate so that she would have the right to donate it upon her passing.

