

Lydia Ann (Bixler) Harkison, (19 Jun 1942 – 78 Jun 1900), The Newport News, The Perry Historians

After a lingering illness, **Mrs. Lydia Ann Harkinson** died at her home in Honey Grove, Juniata County, Pa., June 7, 1900, aged 57 years, 11 months, and 18 days. **Mrs. Harkinson** was a daughter of **Joseph** and **Mary Bixler**, and was born June 19, 1842, on the old Bixler homestead, in Saville Township, this county, about one mile west of Eshcol and two miles east of Ickesburg. Christmas day, 1870, she was married to **Thomas Harkinson**, who survives her. To this marriage two sons were born, **Joseph Rodger** and **John Bixler**, both living and married. To **Joseph** three children have been born and to **John** two. Hence **Mrs. Harkinson** was a mother of two children and grandmother to five grandchildren. In her social relations, **Mrs. Harkinson** was polite, affable and kind, and had made many friends. In the discharge of her domestic duties she was faithful, careful, managing and economical. She was a life-long member of the Reformed Church, having united with this church about the year 1860, at St. Andrew's Church, now Eshcol during the pastorate of the late Rev. Samuel Kuhn. She was a firm and settled believer in the usages and doctrines of the Reformed Church. Having fully embraced the doctrine taught in the answer to the first question of the Heidelberg catechism, although in a feeble health for many years and a sufferer of much of the time, she was cheerful and uncomplaining. Many of her nearest friends knew nothing of her real condition in respect to her disease, a form of carcinoma having developed. She suspected this and finally knew it, but endured it patiently. During her last long illness she was occupied much of her time with her bible, hymn book, catechism, church and Sunday school papers, and books of the Muddy Colportage Libraries next to her bible, and was very desirous that the children should read them. When the end drew near she was calm and composed and on June 7, at about 10 o'clock a.m. she fell asleep. Saturday, June 9, her remains were brought to Eshcol and laid away in the old graveyard, where her father, mother, two brothers, and a sister were laid to rest before her. Two brothers **Henry** of Eshcol, and **John** of Sandy Hill, and three sisters, **Elizabeth Lyons**, of near Eshcol, **Kate B. Baker**, of Near Cassville, Huntingdon County, Pa. and **B.E. Baker**, of Eshcol, survive her. Nearly forty persons from Honey Grove constituted the funeral cordage which conveyed her remains to Eshcol. They arrived at Eshcol about 11:45 a.m. The casket was taken into **Dr. J.D. Baker's**, the home of **Mrs. Harkinson's** youngest sister, **Barbara Ellen**, where it remained until time for the funeral services and until the friends had taken refreshments. At 2 o'clock p.m., the casket was conveyed to the Lutheran Church, where services were conducted by Rev. M.H. Derstine, who delivered an eloquent, instructive and comforting discourse. The portion of scripture, to which he referred it Psalm 116: 15; "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints." While the choir sang. "When shall we meet again?" and "Mid scenes of confusion and creature complaints," the large audience viewed the remains and then came the interment.