

## **Dr. Mary Lyles Sims**

The State March 25, 1918

Dr. Mary Lyles Sims Died Yesterday  
Successful Physician and Beloved Woman  
President Y.W.M.C.

Descended from Old Fairfield and Union County Families - Funeral This Morning

Dr. Mary Lyles Sims died at her home, 1711 Gervais Street, at 4:45 o'clock yesterday morning, after an illness of several months. Dr. Mary Lyles Sims was born in Union October 8, 1869. She was the only child of Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Lyles. On her paternal side she descended from the Lyles family of Revolutionary fame who were the first settlers of old Fairfield County, her grandparents on her paternal side were Elizabeth Dawkins and Ephraim Francis Lyles. On her maternal side she descended from the well-known Sims family of Union, her grandparents being Mary Ann and B. F. Sims. Her early childhood was spent in Union at the ancestral home. Dr. Sims was educated in the schools of Union and attended Due West College. Later, she graduated from the American School of Osteopathy at Kirksville, Mo., and became an osteopathic physician.

Prior to this she taught several years in the Graded School at Clinton.

November 6, 1889, Dr. Sims married S. W. Sims. He lived, however, only a short time after the marriage. Her mother passed away some years ago in Newberry.

About ten years ago, Dr. Sims and her father, Mr. Lyles, came to Columbia to live and she has since then practiced her profession here most successfully, until last November, when a fatal disease compelled her to give up her practice.

Since then she has been patiently and bravely bearing her sufferings exhibiting wonderful fortitude and courage to the last.

Dr. Sims has taken part in everything in Columbia for the city's good and uplift. She was an ardent church worker, a member of the First Baptist Church and always ready and willing to give and to do.

Dr. Sims was president of the Y.W.C.A. during last year and to her is largely due the new life and activities of the association, now such a potent factor in the life of the city.

Since the organization of the South Carolina Osteopathic Association, May 1, 1909, Dr. Sims has been its treasurer and secretary. The first meeting of the association was held in her office in this city. For the past three years she has been a member of the board of trustees of the American Osteopathic Association and was one of the foremost physicians in her profession.

As a woman, Dr. Sims was quiet, unassuming, and womanly and yet she was known as a woman of unusual business ability. Her intellect was far above ordinary, and her heart as warm as her mind was bright. She will be missed in every walk of life, but most of all she will be missed by her friends, whom she numbers by the hundreds, and the members of her household, who have been her devoted attendants during her illness and death.

Dr. Sims is survived by her father, A. C. Lyles, her aunt, Mrs. Sarah Lyles Bynum, an aunt in Chester, Mrs. H. C. Grafton, and another Mrs. W. J. Martin of Fairfield, also an aunt on her maternal side, Mrs. Addie Hodges of Prosperity, an uncle, T. P. Sims of Spartanburg and many cousins through the State. One of her cousins who survive her is Dr. Albert Zealy of North Carolina, also an osteopathic physician who was strongly associated with her in the home and professional life.

A Tribute to My Friend

Some years ago, a quiet, modest woman came to Columbia and opened an office on Main Street. Her sign read, "Dr. Mary Lyles Sims, Osteopathic Physician."

One by one the patients came and were relieved or made well according to their several needs. Those patients seen discovered that they had only found a physician, who healed their bodies, but a friend who ministered to their souls, and a companion who made the time spent in her office an hour of sunshine and charm.

Time went on, and gradually, Mary Lyles Sims became a power in the life of Columbia. In an unassuming way she entered the life of the city-Christian, charitable, civic, and social. She was an active member of the First Baptist Church and fully illustrated the meaning of the word Christian. During the past year she had been president of the Y.M.C.A. of Columbia and the time and thought she gave to that great work is now bearing fruit. Her personal charities, known only to her friends, were manifold. Truly "she went about doing good."

Dr. Sims was one of the shining lights in her chosen profession. She was secretary and treasurer of the South Carolina Osteopathic Association, a member of the board of trustees of the American Osteopathic Association. The past few years of her life have been spent in her beautiful home on Gervais street, a home typical of the woman. Always bright with the flowers, she loved so well, always holding open its doors to friend and kindred; and it was here, in her home, she shone brightest. A keen intellect, combined with a sweet sympathetic nature and sunny disposition she was "a perfect woman nobly planned, to warm, to comfort, to command." Truly it may be said of her: "She stretched out her hands to the poor, yea, she reached out her hands to the needy." "She is not afraid of the snow for her household, for all her household are clothed in scarlet." "Strength and honor are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come." "She opened her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness." "She looked well to the ways of her household and eats not the bread of idleness." "Many daughters have done virtuously but thou excellent them all." "Give her of the fruit of her hands and let her own works praise her in the gates." - Prov. 31...G.H.F., Columbia [transcribed by D. Whitesell for SCGT]