

Nancy Jane Speer's Death

Death of Nancy Jane Speer was reported in the Salem NC. People's Press, on Feb. 13, 1857.

Many of your readers will be pained to learn that Nancy Jane Speer is no more. She died at the residence of her father in Yadkin county, on the evening of the 22nd ult. Death is ever a startling messenger, and though he had been even at the door for months past, yet, when the spoiler came, the grief seemed too much for bleeding hearts to bear. It is natural that friends and relatives should weep for the departed; but when one so young, so kind, so intelligent, so useful and so beloved; is thus stricken down in the morning of life, it enshrouds the community in a dark mantle of gloom, and saddens the heart of the thoughtless and gay. It might justly be said of her that "those who knew her best loved her most." The deceased was a graduate of Greensboro Female College, where she remained some time as an efficient and acceptable instructress in the literary department of that institution. She was then induced to take up her residence in Rockford, N. C., where she founded the Rockford Female Seminary, and won the commendation of all as an able instructress and Christian woman. But the hand of disease pressed heavily upon her; and during the past summer months, she was compelled to abandon her school. Her parting interview with the weeping pupils of that institution, will not be soon forgotten. Little did the writer think, when he witnessed, two short years ago, the first annual examination of the classes of that Seminary, that it would so soon be his lot to record the death of its gifted and accomplished principal. Truly, "in the midst of life, we are in death. A ripe scholar-with an earnest, penetrating intellect, united with indomitable energy, the deceased had acquired an amount and variety of knowledge rarely attained by her sex. The writer is conscious that he expresses but the language of a sorrowing and appreciating community, when he says, we may never look upon her like again. Who shall take her place.

A STRANGER FRIEND

January 14th, 1857
