

Denver Post:
March 1898

Longmont Ledger
April 1, 1898



Death of a Woman Pastor Rev. Mary Bumstead Coates of Highlandlake dies of Pneumonia. Rev. Mary Bumstead Coates, who has been pastor of the Highland Lake Congregational Church between Longmont and Greeley, died in this city yesterday of pneumonia. She was the only woman minister in Colorado, and was noted for her energy in church work and success as an organized of Christian forces. She died at the age of 33 years.

Mrs. Coates was born in Boston, educated in that city and sent to South Africa as a missionary. After serving in that field for over seven years, impaired health compelled her return to this country. Mrs. Forbes Coates, formerly Rev. Mary G. Bumstead of Highlandlake died March, 24, 1898 in Denver, Colorado. The deceased was born in Boston, Mass., where the years of her girlhood were spent.

At about the age of twenty-five she went to South Africa where she labored seven years as a teacher in the Huguenot Seminary. At the end of that time she was obliged to return to her home on account of ill health. Failing to gain that at home, she came to Colorado in the spring of 1894, where she gained rapidly, and in the fall of the same year,

accepted a call to come to the church of Highlandlake as its pastor.

For nearly four years she has been a devoted laborer for the upbuilding of the kingdom of Christ in this place. She raised over \$3,000 and built a church at Highlandlake, the pulpit of which she was occupying at the time of her death. The deceased was married only one week ago, and her demise has greatly shocked a large circle of friends. It was by means of her faithful labors and prayers that the church edifice has been created which now stands as a monument to her memory. She has left a warm place in the hearts of her people where she has always brought sympathy and comfort to the sick and sorrowing. The news of her sudden death brings sorrow to her many friends here and throughout the state. She had been married but ten days, and the bereaved husband and the members of her family in Denver and her eastern home have the heartfelt sympathy of all who knew and loved her so well.

The remains were brought to Highlandlake Saturday morning. The funeral services were conducted by Rev. H. M. Sanderson of Denver at the church, and the burial was at Highlandlake Cemetery.