

[Pratt, Mary]

## SCHUYLER LAKE

No life more pure and true, and kind and helpful, ever dwelt in any community than that of Miss Mary Pratt, whose passing away at Faxton Hospital early Friday morning, May 16, 1919, caused universal mourning. Of her it truly may be said, "None knew her but to love her, none named her but to praise." Mary Pratt was the youngest daughter of Daniel and Eliza Lutley Pratt, and was born in the town of Burlington, Jan. 12, 1833, and when four years old moved, with the family, to the town of Exeter, and has lived in this village and vicinity the remainder of her life. She had not been really well for some time past, but kept about her work, and did not think herself ill enough to call a physician until a few weeks ago, but had grown worse rapidly since then and a week ago last Thursday Dr. Evans of Utica was called to consult with Dr. Haggerty and removed her to the hospital, which was thought her only chance of recovery. Last Wednesday the final operation was attempted, but her condition was found to be such that it had to be abandoned. Her sister, Mrs. E. J. Gray, and niece, Miss E. Janette Pratt, were with her until Thursday, when they returned home, leaving the patient comfortable and having the best of care. During the afternoon, however, there was a change for the worse and she passed very peacefully away during the night. Words can not express the love and esteem in which she was held in this community, nor the feeling of sadness and personal loss occasioned by her passing. For about 31 years her home has been with her sister Mrs. Gray, and since the death of Mr. Gray the three sisters, Mrs. Gray, Caroline, and Mary Pratt, have lived together in the home, where peace and charity and good will and all good works abounded—an ideal home—the central place for Red Cross and missionary effort. Mary was a loyal Universalist, prizing her faith above all things, but broad minded and charitable enough to see the good in all things, and her helpful hand was ever ready to aid in any good work. For years she had been a most efficient superintendent of the Universalist Sunday School, where aside from in the home, her presence will be missed most of all. Here children and youth of all denominations came, to most of whom she is affectionately known as "Aunt Mary." Doubtless her influence will be felt in generations yet to be. Who can tell where such influence ends? Her associates in the work feel that their loss is irreparable. We would not call the freed spirit back to its earthly tenement, but oh! we miss her so! Besides the two sisters already mentioned, she leaves one nephew, W. O. Pratt, and three nieces, Mrs. G. W. Herkimer, Miss E. Jannette Pratt and Mrs. Frank Smith, with several grand nieces and nephews. A brother and sister have passed before. The funeral service was held in the Universalist church on Monday at 2 p.m., and was largely attended, her pastor, Rev. Charles Kramer, paying a beautiful tribute to her loyalty and work. Many beautiful flowers, which she loved, attested the love and esteem in which she was held. Her Sunday School class acted as pall bearers. The union school was closed during the funeral, and the children of the Sunday School attended in a body. At the grave Rev. Kramer repeated, by request, Tennyson's beautiful poem, "Crossing the Bar," that being a favorite with her. Interment was made in the family plot in the village cemetery.

*Richfield Springs Mercury*, Richfield Springs NY, Thu. 22 May 1919