

[Prescott, Mae Brown]

Mrs. Mae Prescott, Beloved Resident, Dies at Hospital  
Brief Illness Fatal at Cuba—Had Been Librarian for Past 12 Years  
—Instituted Memorial Book Collection

Friendship lost one of its best loved and most respected residents this week in the death Sunday (August 24, 1947) of Mrs. Mae Brown Prescott, wife of Frank C. Prescott, and librarian of the Friendship Free Library for the past 12 years. Mrs. Prescott died in Cuba Memorial Hospital at 6:50 p.m. after a comparatively brief illness. She was 69 years of age.

A native of this village, she was born December 5, 1877, and was a daughter of Daniel Brown and Elvira Farr Brown. After receiving schooling here, she studied elocution at the Clinton Liberal Institute, [a Universalist institution] Fort Plain, returning to Friendship in 1898, when records show she began an association and interest in affairs of the library which, although interrupted for nearly 30 years, never were [was] entirely severed.

In those days, the library was located in the building in Depot Street where the Rex Voorhies store is now located, and library memoranda indicates she "worked on the books" there prior to her marriage to Mr. Prescott on September 16, 1904.

Shortly after her marriage she was named secretary of the library board, retaining that position until she removed to Salamanca with her husband in 1905. Mr. Prescott operated a restaurant there for a number of years, later becoming associated in the operation of facilities at nearby Allegany State Park.

During this period, Mrs. Prescott entertained the then Gov. Franklin D. Roosevelt at dinner while he was on a sight-seeing visit to the park in 1929.

Mr. and Mrs. Prescott returned to Friendship in 1934, when Mrs. Prescott shortly resumed her affiliation with the library which was to continue until her death. She was appointed librarian in September, 1935, succeeding Miss Agnes Jordan.

A woman of keen perception and charming personality, she exerted wide influence on the reading habits of the people of the village, and she was instrumental in the adoption of many progressive innovations in the library. She began a memorial book collection in honor of deceased residents of Friendship, and during the war the library board and private citizens placed a large number of books on the library shelves in memory of all war casualties from this community.

During the war, Mrs. Prescott was vitally interested in the Red Cross, working tirelessly for long hours in charge of groups folding bandages.

Mrs. Prescott remained active almost until her final illness. She was a member of the [former] Universalist Church of Friendship.

[Prescott, Mae Brown]

Besides her husband, she is survived by one brother, Frank R. Brown of Morrison, Ill.; one sister-in-law, Mrs. Carrie Brown of Buffalo, and the following nieces and nephews: Gay H. Brown of Utica, grand master of Masons of the State of New York; Daniel Brown and Mrs. Anita Chiz, both of Springfield, Mass.; Richard Brown of Warsaw, and Mrs. Gilbert Franklin and Mrs. Grace Hester, both of Buffalo.

The Rev. Roy L. Webber, rector of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church of Friendship, officiated at services Wednesday at 1:30 p.m. in the late home in West Main Street. Interment was in the family plot at Mount Hope Cemetery.

The bearers were L. L. LeSuer, Frank Miller, Rex Voorhies, Leon F. Stevens, Floyd E. Barrett and Charles P. Weart.

*Friendship Register*, Friendship NY, Thu. 28 Aug 1947

Transcribed on 30 Oct 2014 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY