

[Austin, Bessie Louise Merrill]

FORMER NICHOLVILLE RESIDENT DIES
Mrs. Gerald Austin Passes Away in Watertown Hospital

Nicholville, March 10 —On Saturday morning, Feby 27, this community was profoundly saddened to learn of the passing of Mrs. Gerald Austin at the House of the Good Samaritan, Watertown, where she had been a patient since the preceding Tuesday when she underwent an operation. Following the operation she had improved slightly only to suffer a relapse which culminated fatally.

Bessie Louise Merrill, third daughter of Silas W. and Carrie Day Merrill, was born in Nicholville June 20, 1884. Her early life was spent in Nicholville where she attended school. On August 12, 1913, she was united in marriage with Gerald W. Austin and a few years later Mr. and Mrs. Austin moved to Watertown where they have since resided.

During her residence in the latter place Mrs. Austin has been an ardent worker at All Souls Universalist Church, where she was a member of the Guild. At one time she served as an officer in the Guild. She was also a member of the Elk Chapter O. E. S. at Nicholville.

Mrs. Austin was gifted with an artistic temperament as manifested by the numerous paintings and sketches left among her sorrowing friends. Hers was a vitally courageous personality, one which refused time and again to be baffled or dismayed at the advent of serious personal illness. Her rare friendliness and happy, unselfish disposition endeared her to a wide circle of friends both in her native home and in Watertown.

Besides her husband she is survived by one son, Merrill Lyman Austin, age 10 years of Watertown; her father, Silas W. Merrill of Nicholville; one sister Mrs. John L. Blood, of Utica, and one niece, Carol Blood.

The funeral was held from the family home in Watertown Monday afternoon where the profusion of beautiful flowers testified to the high esteem in which Mrs. Austin was held. Dr. Harry Westbrook Reed, pastor of All Souls Universalist church officiated. Interment will take place at the Nicholville cemetery in the spring.

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