

[Ayers, Cornelia M. Chittenden]

MRS. H. H. AYERS DIES AT 80 YEARS
DAUGHTER OF THE LATE CONGRESSMAN CHITTENDEN
WELL KNOWN MUSICIAN

Mrs. Cornelia M. Ayers, widow of Henry H. Ayers, died at 10:30 Wednesday evening at her home, (336?) Sherman street, following a long illness, aged 80 years. Mrs. Ayers had been in failing health for more than two years. She was unconscious practically all day Wednesday. Death was due to anemia.

She was born in Adams village, April 8, 1837, daughter of the late Judge Thomas and Mrs. Nancy Hendon Chittenden. She came here when a girl and had since lived here. She and her parents made their home in Stone street in the residence now occupied by George C. Inglehart, 177 Stone street, between the homes of F. E. Edwards and Dr. James Munroe Smith. Her father, Judge Chittenden, was at one time congressman from this district.

She was married Jan. 13, 1864 to Henry H. Ayers, who for many years was a member of the firm of Herrick & Ayers, dry goods merchants. The firm establishment was located for several years in the Paddock building and later in the Taggart building. Mr. Ayers died in 1897.

Mrs. Ayers was one of the oldest members of the Universalist church of this city. She was a regular attendant up to the time of her illness and always had the welfare of the church at heart.

She was one of the founders of the Watertown branch of the Needlework Guild in this city... Annually, the garments made by the local branch are collected at the Woodruff House, several thousand in number, and during the year the garments are distributed among the needy families of the city... Mr. Ayers never wished any office in the guild, but was director of one of the sewing circles.

Surviving are three sons, Jesse C. Ayers, Harry E. Ayers and William H. Ayers, all of this city, and one brother, George C. Chittenden, of Columbus, O. The funeral will be held from her home at 2 Friday afternoon, Rev. Harry Westbrook Reed, pastor of All Souls Universalist Church, officiating. Interment will be made in the family plot in Brookside Cemetery.

Mrs. Ayers was an accomplished musician and deeply interested in all things musical. She acted as organist in the old Universalist church for many years when the building was located on the present site of the Hotel LeRay. Mrs. Ayers also sang in the choir, and for a number of years taught piano. Her three sons inherited her musical ability, Jesse and William being regarded as among the best amateur violinists in the city, and Harry Ayers sings in the choir at All Souls.

"Mrs. Ayers was a wonderful woman," said Rev. Harry Westbook Reed, pastor of All Souls Universalist church this morning, "always with the highest ideals from the purest motives. She loved her faith and her church, to which she was always most loyal."

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