

[Benjamin, Harriet Caroline Reese]

DIED. In Belfast, Allegany Co., at the residence of her brother-in-law, Mr. Christopher Jennings [husband of Sophia], Sept. 23d, of dropsy, Mrs. H. C. BENJAMIN, aged 47. Sister Benjamin was born in Springwater, Livingston Co., April 26, 1820, and at the age of 11 years removed with her parents (who were zealous Methodists...) to Allegany Co. At the age of 14 she was baptized, and united with the Methodist church. About the year 1843 her mind became enlightened, her faith became enlarged to that extent, that nothing short of a world's salvation could satisfy her loving and generous heart. Her father's family consisted of nine daughters, five of whom walked with the Methodists. She with the other three sisters investigated the subject more deeply, consequently was led... to embrace that glorious faith which encircles the whole family of man...[e.g. Universalism].

During the last ten years of her earthly pilgrimage, she suffered extremely with the heart disease, all of which she bore without a murmur... Sister Benjamin left a devoted husband to mourn his loss—but not without hope—with other numerous relatives, one child [Edmond] (an only son), who was absent at the time of her death, which occupied her mind very much, as she remarked, that if departed spirits could roam at will, hers would fly to her absent son so quick that no one could tell where or whither it went. Her funeral was attended at the Methodist church in Belfast on the 24th, by Rev. E. W. [Elhanan Winchester] Fuller, who delivered an able and consoling discourse...from the words "Be ye not faithless, but believing."

S. W.

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Transcribed on 13 Sep 2008 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY