

[Brigham, Aristine O.]

THE DEATH OF MISS ARISTINE O. BRIGHAM OF RIGA

The many friends and acquaintances of Aristine O. Brigham will be grieved to learn of her recent decease. She died at her home in Riga on the morning of the 14th of March, 1881 [sic], after an illness which had lasted just one week. It soon became known that her complaint was pneumonia, and when the disease became settled upon both lungs but little hope was entertained of her recovery. She would have been 42 years of age on the 24th of May next. The deceased was a person possessed of many amiable and decided traits of character. Her opinions, once formed, were sustained with tenacity, and she has secured a firm place in the memory of her friends. Many years ago she selected school teaching as her favorite vocation. In this sphere she won a deserved triumph by gaining the good will and love of her pupils, and succeeded in the matter of discipline by her firm and gentle management where others before had failed. But ill health soon obliged her to give up the duties for which nature had so well fitted her. Her lungs failed, and for many years her life was despaired of. She grew better in these respects, but was never able to resume her duties in the school room. She then at times became prominent in the community as an elocutionist. Her natural powers in elocution were of a high order, and with no other training than what she had been able to give herself, she so much excelled that she never failed to entertain and delight her friends and hearers. Many exhibitions and Sabbath School entertainments were gotten up under her directions, and they were always successful. She was active in her efforts in the Universalist Church in Churchville, and for half her life she had been the main dependence of the choir in that church. Many strangers who have had occasion to spend a Sabbath in Churchville have carried away pleasant recollections of the soprano in the choir of the Universalist church. She was also active in the Sabbath school and her good qualities as a teacher made her efficient and beloved. She was the superintendent at the time of her decease and had been such for twelve years. She was possessed of rare feminine taste and a ready aptness for art and tasteful decorations. The funeral was conducted at the residence of her uncle, George Emerson, where she had resided for thirty years, and at the Methodist church in Churchville. Rev. E.[Edmund] R. Ottoway preached an appropriate discourse. At the close of the services her Sabbath school passed together beside the remains and each paid an affectionate tribute to the memory of their beloved teacher by depositing a bouquet of flowers in the coffin. At the grave the funeral ceremonies were conducted by the Grangers according to their peculiar rites. During these exercises each member of the order cast a bouquet of flowers into the grave, where the remains finally rested, fairly enshrined amid the flowers which in life and strength she had so loved and cherished.

*Union and Advertiser*, Rochester NY, Thu. 3 Jul 1879

Transcribed on 13 Jan 2010 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY