

[Brown, Fanny Perry]

Obituary.

Died, at her home on East Main street, in Clifton Springs, on Sunday night, March 30, Mrs. Fanny Brown, aged 88 years.

To this brief notice which appeared in our last issue, it is but justice to the wide circle of acquaintances of the deceased, that we now present, at least, an outline of her biographical record; and though we aim not at eulogy we are convinced as we consider the faithful labors that she has performed and the sterling Christian character that she has ever maintained, that no outline, however brief, can be given that is not resplendent with virtues and inspiring as an example. Though possessed of a naturally strong constitution that had withstood, many times in her later years, the attacks of disease, the influenza proved to be more than her strength could bear. For nine weeks she had been a conscious sufferer from its attack.

During her sickness, as at all times in health, did she manifest an affectionate regard for her children, and particularly, as it seemed, for her grand children; ever remembering them by frequent inquiry, and with rare judgment suggesting for their welfare.

She was ever upheld by faith in Divine Love which had been to her a light, a staff, and a shield.

Her death deprives the Universalist church, not only of one its oldest but one of its most devoted members, for she had been a truly active member for nearly fifty years.

Though for forty years she had been a resident of Clifton Springs, it is not to this fact alone that we attribute the expression of respect which was sown by the large attendance at her funeral which was held from her late residence on Wednesday, April 2d.

Life, to her, was more than to live, and move, and have a being. Her life was marked by industry, faithfulness to her convictions of duty, sympathy for the suffering and charity for all.

These characteristics which in their highest type are ever but the blending of the human and Divine were known to the many who had been blessed in their acquaintance with her. Her heart was ever young and her sympathy and encouragement were ever extended to the young in all their worthy efforts. That they realized their loss was evident by the beautiful sheaf of ripened grain, which as a tribute from the "King's Daughters" and Sabbath school, was placed upon her casket. The many floral tributes from loved friends, both near and distant, all spoke in a similar way, though silently, giving expression to a sorrow that could find no higher form of utterance.

But to the many friends of the departed who have known the sacredness to her of Church days, particularly of Easter, of the freedom with which she

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provided her floral offerings on all such occasions; and to the many who have made her heart glad by their presence, as on her birthdays, they have called to exchange their greetings—to all these there was something in the brightness of the day and the nearness to these anniversaries that was suggestive of birth into a higher life and of a resurrection morning. So much so that it was remarked by one who had long known her: "She has now a more glorious birthday than any upon earth."

The funeral services were conducted by her pastor, Rev. O. [Ora] M. Hilton, the interment being in the Clifton Springs cemetery. Again, as the bright sunlight shone in upon the open grave, was the thought borne to the mind that to her the grave was not dark, and that in the life beyond, the Eternal Day is ever bright with the radiance of God's glory.

The prominent events of her history, as many papers have already noted, are these: She was born in the town of Middlesex, Yates county, N.Y., May 6, 1802. She was one of a family of ten children, two of whom, Mrs. A. C. Younglove, now of Clifton Springs, and Benjamin Perry, of Rushville, are still living. Her parents were Rouse and Desire Perry, of Rhode Island. They were among the first settlers of Yates county. She was married when twenty-six years of age to Daniel B. Wakefield, a noted teacher of grammar who was then teaching a term of school at Oaks Corners, or Oaks as it was then called. He subsequently taught, as he had previously done, in Rushville. In 1834 they moved to Michigan, where they resided until her husband's death, when she returned to Rushville. In 1850 she moved to this place. She became a stockholder in the then new venture of the "Water Cure," Dr. Henry Foster in charge, she assuming the duties of matron. This position she held for a brief time, retiring at last to the home which she had purchased on East Hill, where she has resided until her death. She leaves three daughters, Misses Susan and Emma Wakefield, of this place, and Mrs. C. A. Gillett, of Hopewell.

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Transcribed on 17 Nov 2014 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY