

[Cheney, Catherine "Kate" Griffith]

AUNT KATE GOES TO HER REWARD

Mrs. Catherine Griffith Cheney, Pioneer in Woman Suffrage In Chautauqua County,
Dies at Home of Her Son Near Bemus Point in 98th Year.

The death of Mrs. Catherine Griffith Cheney, lovingly called by many "Aunt Kate," the widow of Asa Cheney, occurred Friday at 6 p.m. at the home of her son, John C. Cheney and family near Bemus Point, where she had resided for the last five years of her life. She was 97 years 4 months and 27 days of age and it had been hoped by herself and family that she might pass the century mark in her long and useful life. She is survived by four sons, Frank W. Cheney of Jamestown; W. Beecher Cheney, Morris Cheney and John C. Cheney, all of Ellery, and by 14 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren. The funeral will be held from the Universalist church at Bemus Point Tuesday at 2 p.m.

In the death of Mrs. Cheney, Chautauqua county loses another of its fine old pioneer residents, a pioneer not only in the sense that she endured the hardships of a new and almost unbroken country, but that she was a pioneer at heart for the women of her country and for years was one of the leaders of an earnest group of women working for the enfranchisement of her sex. With others she was active in organizing the first society for that purpose in Chautauqua county. It was her great pleasure to cast her ballot for the late President Harding in the election of 1920.

She was born in the town of Ellery and had spent her entire long life within a mile of the old homestead of her birth. She was the daughter of John and Tryphena Bemus Griffith and the last survivor of a family of 12 children. She was married to Asa Cheney on March 21, 1860, and was the mother of 11 children, all but four of whom preceded her in death. She was a member of the Universalist church at Bemus Point and until the infirmities of age forbid she took an active part in its work. She had been in excellent health up to the past few months and retained to a marked degree all her faculties.

Evening Journal, Jamestown NY, Sat. 19 Apr 1924

[Cheney, Catherine "Kate" Griffith]

Mrs. Catherine Griffith Cheney, wife of the late Asa Cheney, of Ellery, died last evening at 6 o'clock at the home of her son, John C. Cheney, aged 97 years, 4 months and 27 days. Mrs. Cheney was born in the Town of Ellery and had always resided within a mile of her birth place. She was the daughter of John and Tryphana Bemus Griffith and was the last survivor of twelve of that well known Chautauqua County family. She was married to Asa Cheney on March 21, 1850. Mrs. Cheney was the mother of eleven children, four of whom survive: Frank W. Cheney of Jamestown, W. Beecher Cheney, Morris Cheney and John C. Cheney, all of Ellery. Mrs. Cheney also leaves fourteen grandchildren, and thirteen great-grandchildren. Mrs. Cheney was a member of the Universalist Church of Bemus Point and of Union Grange in which she had always taken an active part until recent years. She was one of the pioneer suffragists in Chautauqua County and was one of the group of women who organized the first society for the enfranchisement of women in this county. It was gratifying to her that she lived to cast her ballot for President in the election of 1920 (She voted for Warren G. Harding in the presidential election.) Mrs. Cheney had enjoyed fairly good health and retained her faculties until a few months ago. The funeral will be held from the Universalist Church at Bemus Point Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock....

Aunt Kate Cheney

The death of Mrs. Katharine Griffith Cheney, at the advanced age of 97 years, removes one of the virile and forceful women of Chautauqua County, who served her day and generation faithfully, with a cheerfulness and kindly spirit that appealed to everyone who had the privilege of her acquaintance thru the almost century of her life on earth. She was born in the Town of Ellery in 1826 and took active interest in the affairs of the community, the church, the grange and the social and political activities of womankind. It is difficult to realize the changes that have come to this county and particularly to the vicinity since the birth of Aunt Kate Cheney. Then Chautauqua County was a part of the great "West." Our hills were covered with forests, the home of wild animals; lumbering was the chief industry, population was sparse and hardships were many. Jamestown was a struggling village in the woods, money was hard to get hold of; but the people of that pioneer period included men and women of courage and of faith in the new land, and their faith was justified by their hard work, and they made the wilderness blossom as the Garden of Eden. They reared their children to love and reverence and patriotism. The death of Aunt Kate severs almost the last link in the chain that connected the pioneer days with the progress of the Twentieth Century in old Chautauqua, and the frail body that has borne the hardships of three or four generations, goes to its long rest.... Surrounded by a large company of relatives and friends all that was mortal of Mrs. Catherine Griffith Cheney was laid away in the Bemus Point Cemetery, Tuesday afternoon. Rev. Walter A. Taylor of Barneveld, N.Y., former pastor of the Bemus Point Universalist Church officiated at the funeral which took place in the church. Music was furnished by Mrs. B. G. Haskins, and Mrs. G. W. Thompson with Mrs. George Johnston at the organ. The bearers were Gerald G. Cheney, Asa B. Cheney, Richard Arnold, Herbert Rexford, Arthur Rexford, and Clarence H. Pickard, all grandsons.

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