

[Cleaveland, Abbie Kendall]

MRS. ABBIE KENDALL CLEAVELAND DIES AT THE AGE OF 101 YEARS
Widow of the Late Frank Nash Cleaveland of Canton

Miss Abbie Kendall Cleaveland, for many years a resident of Canton and the widow of Frank Nash Cleaveland, Canton attorney, and for many years Secretary of St. Lawrence University, passed at the home of her son-in-law and daughter, Dr. and Mrs. Elon (Dorothy K. C.) G. Salisbury, Takoma Park, Washington, D. C. Mrs. Cleaveland had passed the 101st anniversary of her birth, July 29th last, and had been almost to the time of her passing, in remarkably excellent physical and mental health. She had outlived a considerable group of Canton friends with whom she had been intimately associated for years in Canton.

A memorial service was held Sunday afternoon, Nov. 11, in the National Memorial Universalist Church, Washington. Later her ashes will be brought to Canton for burial in the Cleaveland reservation in Fairview Cemetery, where her husband and other members of the Cleavelands are buried.

The death of Mrs. Cleaveland will recall to those who remain, who knew her in Canton for many years, memories that are lasting, of the kindly woman who though not a native of Canton, following her marriage to Frank Nash Cleaveland, young attorney, became deeply devoted to Canton and its people, the university. One might mention as among the old warm friends of Mrs. Cleaveland with whom she worked for civic betterment, and better things for Canton, Mrs. Nelson Robinson, Mrs. Flora Curtis Priest, Mrs. Georgietta Bachelor Hale, Mrs. Fred C. Foster, Dr. Lucia E. Heaton, and many others. She stood for the better things in public and private life. She was the gracious hostess in the home. One recalls the Cleaveland home on University Avenue, which in later years was remodeled into the fine modern home of today...

Mrs. Cleaveland worked for community betterment, always. She at times did not go along with her associate group, if we may call it that; that was in the case of Suffrage [sic] for Women, she was against it, but when the nineteenth amendment was adopted, she did not miss voting, she exercised the franchise, a copy of a Washington paper coming within recent years, when she was at the century mark, the little lady standing at the voting machine, casting her ballot, of course this was not Washington as they have no ballot machine there.

Mrs. Cleaveland was born in Marietta, Ohio, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Preston Kendall. The family were Universalists, her father was an educator and a worker for Universalist institutions, as the writer recalls he solicited funds for the maintenance of Clinton Liberal Institute, opened at Clinton in 1831, chartered in 1834. Before the opening of Canton Theological School at St. Lawrence University, many Theological School students had been prepared there for the ministry; later the Institute was removed to Fort Plain (1879) and in 1901 to Canton. Its income is devoted to the Theological School of St. Lawrence University.

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It may be recalled that Frank Nash Cleaveland, the young attorney, became interested in Abbie Kendall in the eighties and that at the [?] Grasse River was a camping ground during summer, fine cottages all the way from the mouth of Little River to Cold Springs and Woodcock Rapids; small steamers passed from Little River Bridge Landing to the camping grounds; and added to that, most young men and some young women were adept with the canoe paddle. Frank Cleaveland took Abbie Kendall canoeing. And in the later years of her life Abbie Kendall Cleaveland, her husband gone, he passed in 1922, she still loved canoeing, the lash of the water, the stroke of the oars, in the Chesapeake and the Ohio Canal.

Mrs. Cleaveland as a girl attended school at Lawrence, Mass. She graduated from high school in the same class as Will Frost, father of the poet Robert Frost. She was a lover of "Frost poetry" and probably read every verse written by this talented American poet. In her closing years she could repeat Frost fluently.

Before her marriage she had been a teacher, stenographer and librarian. She took deep interest in Canton's efforts to have a reading room and library, and was one of the band of devoted women who worked through the years until Canton had its fine public library. Her daughter, Dorothy, now Mrs. Elon G. Salisbury, a graduate [sic] of St. Lawrence University, like her father, became a teacher in Pennsylvania where she met and married Dr. Salisbury. Mrs. Cleaveland went to live with the son-in-law and daughter, a delightfully companionable woman, growing old, if one may say she ever grew old, growing so gracefully, her memory never failing, her interest in life active. She had lived at Takoma Park with her son-in-law and daughter the past eight years.

During these last years, until toward the end she was not a shut-in. She knew her neighborhood and called on near neighbors. She was a modern, though she loved the past as she recalled it. She was fond of Irving Bacheller and his works, the romances and his poetry.

When the writer was a student of law in the office of Hale and Bowers, the Cleaveland office was in the rear of the Hale and Bowers office, same building, same floor, and often the writer met her in the office of her husband, a searcher of property titles and the making of abstracts. Dorothy was a little girl, say four or five years, very interesting, quite inquisitive and asked sensible but provocative questions. We knew the Cleavelands well, an interesting family, an old early Canton family, recalling that the name of Nash is found as second name of Frank Cleaveland, Frank Nash Cleaveland, and remembering here that one of the fine old stone houses of Canton, situated out on what is known as the "Pike Road"... was built by Tubal Nash, an early pioneer of Canton.

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