

[Connolly, Mary Schenck Townsend]

The wife of Richard B. Connolly, ex-comptroller of New York, died in Switzerland, March 14. She was the daughter of the late John Townsend of New York, and her health had not been good from the time she accompanied her husband in his flight from New York.

Stamford Mirror, Stamford NY, Tue. 25 Mar 1879

MRS. R. B. CONNOLLY'S FUNERAL

A GREAT NUMBER OF ELABORATE FLORAL TRIBUTES—
EULOGIES OF THE BENEVOLENCE OF THE DECEASED

The remains of Mrs. Richard B. Connolly, who died in Switzerland last month, arrived in this City on Friday, on the steamer Suevia, of the Hamburg Line, and were removed to the residence of her daughter, Mrs. Robert C. Hutchings, corner of Fifty-seventh street and Madison-avenue, where they were viewed by friends and relatives yesterday morning. The body was clad in black silk and the face bore a calm and natural appearance. The remains were inclosed in an oak coffin lined with white satin and covered with velvet, and fastened with heavy silver clasps. The parlors of the residence were filled with floral offerings sent by the many friends of the deceased, among the gifts being a cross of flowers, and some richly-framed verses contributed by Sister Irene, of the New-York Foundling Asylum, one of the many charitable institutions with which Mrs. Connolly was connected during her lifetime. The funeral services were held at the Fourth Universalist Church, corner of Forty-fifth-street and Fifth-avenue, in the afternoon. Ex-Surrogate Robert C. Hutchings and his wife and family, Mr. Dayton and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Cromwell, and Mr. R.H.L. Townsend occupied the pews reserved for the relatives of the deceased. Besides these, there were present the entire Board of Trustees of the Chapin Home [a Universalist long-term care facility] and the Trustees of the Roman Catholic Orphan Asylum, both of which institutions Mrs. Connolly assisted to found, delegates from the Women's and Hahnemann Hospitals, John McKeon, the Commissioner John Wheeler, ex-Congressman T. J. Creamer, Major Noah, Commissioner Thomas Dunlap, ex-Alderman Adams, Col. Schefflin, ex-Naval agent D.D.T. Marshall and Mrs. Marshall, Commissioner Vincent King and Mrs. King, Mrs. Dr. Chapin [Hannah Newland, wife of Rev. Dr. Edwin E. Chapin, pastor of the church], Mr. and Mrs. Eugene M. Earle, Mrs. Howard, Mrs. Rhines, Mrs. Verplanck, and Mrs. Davis. Many other friends and acquaintances also attended. The casket rested upon a catafalque in front of the mass of flowers by which it was surrounded. There were tall and graceful ferns and palms, potted plants, and a profusion of floral designs. The lid of the casket bore a silver plate inscribed: Mary Schenk Connolly, *née* Townsend, born, New-York, Jan. 18, 1816, died, Vavey, Switzerland, March 13, 1879." The velvet pall bore the words "Grandma rest" worked in roses of different colors, violets, and smilax. At the right of the coffin stood a broken column of calla lilies and

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immortelles, from Mr. and Mrs. Eugene M. Earle, and a beautiful pillar of flowers, with the inserintion [sic] "Aunt Maria," sent by the young nieces and nephews of the deceased. Above the coffin rose an immense cross of ivy, wreathed with lilies and roses, and embedded in a mold of flowers, in which was worked the inscription, "In Memoriam." From one arm of the cross hung a beautiful harp of flowers, the two [designs?] being sent by absent relatives in Europe, and by Fanny Townsend Connolly. Mrs. Joseph Pirsen sent a bunch of palm leaves and calla lilies; Mrs. John H. Davis, a fine wreath of violets; Mrs. Hutchings, a pillow of flowers, with the inscription "Mother;" the grandchildren of the deceased, a similar pillow, inscribed, "Grandma;" Mr. and Mrs. Valentine, a beautiful ivy cross; Mrs. James M. Cromwell, a wreath of lilies and immortelles; Florence B. Beamish, a sheaf of wheat mingled with flowers; Mrs. L. O. Rhines, a superb ivy cross, entwined with an elaborate wreath of roses, lilies, violets and immortelles; Mr. and Mrs. Ross, a floral anchor, and Mrs. F. D. Tappen, a large sheaf of wheat and a very fine pillow of roses and ivy.

The service was opened with the singing of Handel's "I know that my Redeemer liveth," which was rendered with tender expression by Miss Isabella McCullough. At its close Dr. Chapin read selections from the Scriptures. An address was next delivered by the Rev. Dr. [Thomas J.] Sawyer, formerly of the Orchard-Street Universalist Church, who had known Mrs. Connolly for over 50 years, and who officiated at her marriage. He was visible affected as he referred to the many deeds of charity performed by her during her life. Nothing but what was good would be said of her, he remarked, and her loss was sanctified by the memory of her many services of mercy. Kindness, charity and constant goodness were innate with her, having been inherited from her parents, who ever extended a generous hand to the needy, and in a spirit of profound sympathy and tender love. The beneficence of the deceased was exercised in a similar spirit, and was for no class, creed or nationality, but for the world. Dr. Chapin also delivered a brief eulogy on the virtue, charity, and goodness of the deceased, and closed with an eloquent prayer. The service was then brought to an end with the singing by Miss McCullough of Handel's "Angels bright and ever fair." The remains were immediately afterward removed to the Marble Cemetery in Second-street, between First and Second avenues, where they were interred in the family vault.

New York Times, New York NY, Sun. 18 Apr 1879

Transcribed on 9 Feb 2011 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY