

[Ellis, Frances Maria Lobdell]

### The Inverted Torch

A human life extinguished brings darkness to unwonted places, and so it transpired that many hearts were shadowed by the death of Mrs. Ellis which occurred at daybreak on Saturday, March 27, 1897.

By the light of memory we indite [indict] certain dates, figures and facts concerning this life history, leaving the otherwise unwritten scroll for each friend to fill out from individual sources.

Frances Maria Lobdell was a granddaughter of Jacob Lobdell, the pioneer, whose name appears as one of the first settlers of Victor. He was also the first supervisor of the town, and filled that office for many successive terms. This descendant was born June 25, 1844, on the homestead farm owned and occupied by the family for more than a hundred years.

On June 30, 1874, the subject of our sketch was married to Bolivar Ellis, and here in her native town she spent the remaining years of her life.

Mrs. Ellis' last illness extended over some two weeks, but it was so slight as to occasion no alarm until within a few hours of her death, when fatal symptoms suddenly developed, indicating paralysis of the brain.

The immediate relatives surviving are the husband, an only daughter, Isabel, three brothers, Barton H., and Oliver L. Lobdell, of Victor, Byron J. Lobdell of Los Angeles, Cal., and a maternal aunt, Miss Julia Farr.

An immense concourse of relatives and friends attended the funeral which was held at the family residence, Rev. Mr. [L. Ward] Brigham, pastor of the Universalist church officiating. He spoke most convincingly from the grand words, I know that my Redeemer liveth," than which no more fitting text could have been chosen to epitomize the faith of the departed one and her household.

Music was furnished by a quartette consisting of Mrs. Powell, Mrs. Curtice, Mr. Phillips and Mr. Wm. F. Brace. Their rendering of Tennyson's "Crossing the Bar," was especially fine. A profusion of choice flowers spoke mutely of the love and sympathy of many givers and prophesied the glory of the Easter resurrection at hand, with its perennial comfort. The interment took place in the Ellis lot at Boughton Hill cemetery. "Beautiful for situation" is the spot consecrated by the mortal remains of one dearly loved and long to be remembered.

For many years a devoted member of the Universalist church, Mrs. Ellis centered fully into all its activities both religious and secular. She was "Faithful to the end."

This element of fidelity shone most resplendently in the home. It was there that this gentle wife and mother ministered untiringly—a priestess indeed at the altar of affection. "Let her own works praise her in the gates."

M. E. W.

*original 1897 notice in the M.E. Walling scrapbook,  
office of the Victor NY town historian*