

[Forbes, Harriet Elizabeth Wood]

MRS. HARRIET WOOD FORBES BURIED HERE

Widow of Dr. Henry P. Forbes Dies in Washington

Son and Two Daughters Accompany Body to Canton For Services Yesterday

Yesterday Harry W. Forbes, of Ridgewood, N.J., and his sisters, Mrs. Austin Clark and Miss Ruth Forbes, of Washington, D.C., arrived on the morning plane with the body of their mother, Mrs. Harriet Wood Forbes. Word of Mrs. Forbes' death in Washington Sunday morning was received here that afternoon, and funeral services were held from the Universalist church Monday morning at eleven, Rev. H. P. Morrell and Dr. R. E. Sykes conducting the service. Burial was at the family lot in Evergreen Cemetery.

At the services in the church Dr. Sykes recalled the many happy associations he and many others had had with the Forbes family, of the beautiful memories which the occasion renewed, of Mrs. Forbes and Dr. Henry Prentice Forbes, who for many years was Dean of the Theological School.

It was in 1870 that Harriet Elizabeth Wood came to Canton from her home in Vernon, Vt., to enter St. Lawrence University in the class of 1873. That same year Henry P. Forbes, whose home was in Paris, Maine, entered the Theological School. Edwin J. Sykes, father of Dr. R. E. [Richard Eddy] Sykes, had that same year entered upon his duties as steward of the college. These two students, with other students, made their home in the old college building with the Sykes family, and later afterward Henry Forbes took Harriet Wood for his bride and moved back to Canton in 1880. Richard E. Sykes lived with them two years while attending college.

The memories which Dr. Sykes possesses of the Forbes home, the joy and happiness that was found there, the love which Dr. and Mrs. Forbes had for others and in doing for others, are shared by many. Following her attendance at St. Lawrence, Harriet Wood had taught for a time at Goddard Seminary in Vermont. Her marriage to Henry Forbes occurred Sept. 12, 1856 and from then until 1880 they resided at Danvers, Mass., where he was pastor of the Universalist church.

Dr. Forbes was a man of scholarly attainment, a humanitarian and a gifted teacher. In 1880 he was called to the faculty of the Canton Theological School and the remainder of his life was devoted to the School and St. Lawrence University, where for many years he served as librarian in addition to his teaching duties. He and Mrs. Forbes built the home now owned by Professor H. P. Morrell.

From 1893 to 1913 Dr. Forbes was Dean of the Theological School. His death occurred Oct. 2, 1913, and Mrs. Forbes and her daughters, Misses Ruth and Portia, continued to reside in Canton until about 1920 when they all moved to Washington, D.C. Mrs. Forbes visited Canton three years ago

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and shortly after her return to Washington fractured her hip and from then until her death had been confined to her bed.

Mrs. Forbes was a devoted wife and mother. Her interests were not confined to her own family but to others as well. She was a devoted member of the Canton Universalist church, of the W.T.C.U. of which Dr. Forbes was a staunch supporter, of the Canton Library Association, the Canton Tatting Club and Garden Club. As one who loved good books as well as people, and found joy and beauty in life, her influence went forth in unstinted and affectionate measure to others, by all of whom she was loved.

Mrs. Forbes and the late Wriley N. Beard for many years served as dramatic critics and trainers for the plays produced by the University students, and on occasion for local productions. In many ways similar to this Mrs. Forbes entered into community work.

Her parents were Roswell and Amanda Lee Wood, and on her mother's side she was related to the Dr. John Stebbins Lee family. She was born in Vernon, Vt., June 21, 1851.

Surviving are her son Harry W. Forbes, Trustee of the University, and family; and her three daughters, Mrs. Austin H. Clark and Miss Ruth Forbes, of Washington, and Mrs. Albert [Phyllis] Clark, of Canton.

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Transcribed on 28 Feb 2008 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY