

[Ford, Irene Isham]

MIDDLEVILLE
Death of Mrs. A. W. Ford

Our community was saddened last Wednesday morning to hear of the death of one of its most highly esteemed and oldest residents, Mrs. Irene I. Ford, which occurred at the home of her daughter, Mrs. John Murray [Addie Ford] Atwood, in Canton, where she had been spending the past three months, intending to return home in a few days, when she was stricken with paralysis from which she did not rally.

Mrs. Irene Isham Ford was a resident of Salisbury until her marriage to Albigene W. Ford January 1, 1863, since which time she has made this village her home, where she had endeared herself to all. To know her was to love her, and to always be her friend, for she represented the highest ideals and one could not but be the better for having had the privilege of her acquaintance.

She was a devoted member of the Universalist church and during recent repairs and improvements of this church she was thoroughly interested, and did much toward the advancement of same and even though she had planned her visit to Canton at an earlier date, she postponed it until after the re-dedication service, Sunday, July 10th, saying she could not miss that, and, in company with her son and granddaughter, Miss Helen Atwood, was in her accustomed place, happy indeed that her church home was thus in keeping with her desires of so long a period. Anxiously had the parishioners of this church awaited her return, for she was a great inspiration to its cause and her death causes a vacancy there that can never be filled, nor can they make it seem possible that she will no longer be with them in person, although always with them in loving memory.

She was eighty-two years old the 13th of last April, but seemed much younger, and took an active interest in the welfare of her home and in every branch of good work for the community in general. She is survived by three daughters and a son; Mrs. J. M. Atwood of Canton, Mrs. Harrison Wilkins and Mrs. George Gillette of Minneapolis, Minn., and David E. Ford of this village; also by eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild, to whom sympathy is extended in this hour of affliction.

Mrs. Ford was an interested worker and an earnest member of the Sunday School Bible Class, and a memorial service was held by the members of said school Sunday at 1:30 a.m., assisted by A. N. Lindsay, teacher of the class, and Rev. J. M. Atwood, D.D.

At 4 o'clock Sunday afternoon memorial services were held, Mr. Lindsay, pastor of the church, presiding at the organ, and he later sang one of Mrs. Ford's favorite solos. Rev. J. M. Atwood, a son-in-law, had charge of the

[Ford, Irene Isham]

service, and paid many beautiful tributes to the deceased. The flowers were beautiful and bespoke of friendships rich and rare, telling plainer than words the love borne her by her large circle of friends and relatives. At the close of the service it was the wish of her family that these flowers be given to the sick and "shut-ins" of the village and they were divided into thirty bouquets and given accordingly.

There was a short service at the home of Rev. and Mrs. Atwood in Canton on Thursday evening, conducted by Dr. Atwood and Rev. R. [Richard] E. Sykes, and the following morning the remains were taken to Waterville for cremation, being accompanied by her son and Dr. Atwood. Burial will be made in the family plot in our rural cemetery, where rest those of her husband, two daughters and an adopted daughter, Mae Burton.

Of her it can be truly said, she hath done what she could. Her children can well rise up and call her blessed. Never was there a more devoted wife or mother, and as a neighbor and friend, there could be none better.

When a life like this is taken from our midst it is no wonder that the entire community is saddened, and each one feels that a personal friend is missing. Were all to follow her life's example, what a beautiful world would be this in which we live.

The following resolutions have been drafted in loving memory of the deceased and were read from the pulpit Sunday morning.

Resolutions of Respect

The Universalist Society of Middleville has been saddened by the loss of one of its oldest and most devoted members in the death of Mrs. Ford, she having been one of the founders of this church. She was one who felt a deep interest in the work, who heartily performed her duties and to the last moments of her life bore its interests on her heart.

Resolved, That while we bow in humble submission to God's will, we earnestly pray that as He has taken our friend and co-worker to a higher sphere of labor, He will take a nearer place at our side, and fill our hearts with a warmer love for all good work. May the God of all comfort and bless those who knew her and loved her best, ever cherishing her memory as a precious token of one we loved, now dwelling in our Heavenly Father's mansion; and in the blessed hope of a reunion there, we consecrate ourselves anew to the work which she has laid down.

Resolved, that we, in behalf of the Universalist Society of Middleville, extend to the bereaved family and all dear to the departed, our deepest sympathy, in the knowledge that their loved one is now with her Savior and theirs, who looks upon us with all compassion and will bind up the broken hearts.

[Ford, Irene Isham]

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be presented to the family of the deceased, recorded in our church records, and published in the local papers.

Respectfully submitted,
Mrs. H. E. Jackson
Mrs. Byron B. Pickert
Mr. A. N. Lindsay,
Committee.

Journal & Courier, Little Falls NY, Tue. 27 Sep 1921

Transcribed on 19 Aug 2013 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY