

[Graham, Perlyette Harris]

MRS. JAMES S. GRAHAM

[On] Thursday, November 20th, at her home in Oxford, New York, occurred the death of Perlyette Harris Graham. A simple but impressive burial service was held in our church Sunday afternoon at three o'clock and the interment took place in the family plot in Mt. Hope Cemetery.

For many years Mrs. Graham was an earnest and faithful worker for the cause of Universalism both in the First and Second Churches. At one time a Trustee of our Society.

Her departure to enter upon special duties at the Soldier's Home at Oxford was a great loss to our home church. Here was one of those rare souls gifted with great executive ability and a fine sense of justice. In our church meetings her council [counsel] was always of the wisest.

The sincere sympathy of our society goes out to the members of her family.

*Our Outlook*, First Universalist Church, Rochester NY, Fri. 28 Nov 1919

Transcribed on 19 Aug 2012 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY

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MRS. PERLYETTE GRAHAM

AN APPRECIATION

By Dr. A. W. [Arthur Wilder] Grose [church pastor]

In the death of Mrs. James Graham a true mother in Israel has passed on to that reward vouchsafed to a life filled as few lives are filled with useful and loving service.

It is however the quality of that service that we all chiefly think about as together we mourn in sympathy with the husband to whom she brought such rare helpfulness and satisfying companionship through so many years, and with the family to whom her memory will ever be a beautiful and sacred thing. Mrs. Graham was an unusual woman in at least two particulars. Few people ever excelled her in sound, well balanced, sane, level-headed judgment about all sorts of matters. She had that practical common-sense which is anything but common and her advice on any subject was always well worth heeding. But that quality that will be spoken of and thought of most often as we reflect upon her well-spent life is that big generous heartedness, that genuine interest in human beings—"even the least of these"—which could have its roots only in the soil of the broad human sympathy and be nourished only by an abiding faith that, keenly alive to all the evil in the world, saw and felt also the good working in and through human limitations in the carrying out of God's great plan. She was one of the best definitions of Universalism we have ever been privileged to know.

Her service to our church covered many years, during a large part of which she served on the Board of Trustees with an efficiency that was only matched by her unfailing loyalty. She has built herself into our institution and into our hearts at the same time. She loved us all, saw some good in us all, and in a simple unassuming way did what she could to show the world the type of person and of Christian that a real belief in and practice of Universalism can produce. Her memory will be forever green in all our hearts.

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