

[Ledyard, Georgettie Bacheller]

DEATH COMES TO MRS. LEDYARD P. HALE  
Community Mourns Passing of This Charming Woman  
Widow of Distinguished Jurist and Descendant of Pioneer Family

In the death of Mrs. Georgettie Bacheller Hale, at the family home at the corner of University avenue and Park street, Wednesday morning, this community suffered a distinct loss, and mourns the passing of a woman who in many ways had endeared herself to the people of Canton through the long, useful and beautiful life she had lived. For several years Mrs. Hale had been afflicted with heart trouble. On several occasions this illness seemed to have but one escape, and that through death, but with wonderful recuperative power and an eagerness to keep on living she rallied and would be up and about her home. During the past year she had surprised all by her activity and ability to share in many of those things with which she had been so long identified. She had attended the meetings of the Board of Trustees of Benton Library of which she was a charter member, and had been able to enjoy and work in her flower garden which she so loved. With that marked devotion to her friends, she had attended the funeral of Mrs. Emma Sackrider with whom she had been so long associated on the Benton Board. At the close of Commencement she attended the memorial service in Gunnison Chapel for the late John Langdon Heaton, the life-long and intimate friend of herself and Judge Hale. For the past nine weeks her health failed and for the last week the end was known to be close at hand.

Funeral services were held from the home Thursday afternoon at four. Rev. Emerson LaLone, her pastor, officiated in a service which was in keeping with the beauty of a life so fully lived. Burial was then made by the side of her late and distinguished husband, Judge Ledyard Park Hale, in Evergreen Cemetery. The bearers were: Atwood Manley, Prof. V. J. Warner, Prof. Clarence H. Gaines and Adrian Scott.

Ettie Bacheller Hale was born amid the Pierrepont Hills on March 21, 1856. For seventy-nine years she had spent most of her life here in Canton surrounded by her many friends and the associations which meant most to her. Her parents, Charles Lockwood and Amelia Brownell Bacheller, were plain farming folks of the fine old New England Anglo-Saxon stock which had come to settle this region.

The ancestors of her husband's family had come to this country from England in 1832. Two years later the Bachellers had also come from England to Massachusetts. These two families seemed to have run along somewhat parallel lines. Both were found in Reading, Mass. in colonial days, both became Vermonters and early in the last century both found their way into the St. Lawrence Valley, Benjamin Hale settling the Hale farm, now the

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John Stuart place on the Brick Chapel Road, the Bachellers locating in Pierrepont.

Ettie Bacheller, as she was affectionately known, was born in a house standing on the crest of Waterman Hill. Next door neighbor was the family of her uncle Paul Bacheller, father of Irving Bacheller. The old Charles Bacheller place is no more, the hose having been burned many years ago. The scenes made so familiar in the books of Irving Bacheller in later years, were her companions in childhood, such as Paradise Valley, and Uncle Eb of Eben Holden.

When she was fourteen years of age Mrs. Hale's mother died and the girl came to live with relatives, the father being located in Washington engaged in buying horses for the Union army during the Civil War.

Down in the valley below the Bacheller place lived the boy Ledyard Hale, who grew into a tall, lithe, energetic young man of brilliant mind and rare capacity. He graduated from St. Lawrence University, and while he was a student there the girl, Ettie, entered the college. He had joined with five fellow students, among them Walter Gunnison and Charles Gaines, to found the first Greek letter men's fraternity, now the Betas, at the University. The girl, Ettie, with others, among them Inez Jones, Lucia Heaton, and Clara Weaver, formed the Browning Society, the first sorority, and now the Kappa chapter.

As the lives of their families had followed such parallel lines, so had the lives of these two, and it was not strange that on May 21, 1879, they should become united in marriage, and what a happy event that union came to be as the years passed along. Ledyard Hale was the aspiring attorney. He had gone west after his graduation and studied law, had graduated in 1879 from the University of Wisconsin Law School, and there in the midwest these two began their married lives. It was but two brief years they spent there, for the old home ties beckoned and they returned to Canton, here to live most of their lives, the young lawyer to mature into a foremost figure in the legal profession in this county [and] the state, and to attain a national reputation; she as the wife and the mother of their two children, to make for the happiness and contentment of a delightful home. Both possessed that deep love for the University which from their doorstep they saw grow beyond their fondest dreams, and hundreds of whose students were welcomed into their family circle, Judge Hale to serve as President of the University Corporation.

Ledyard P. Hale became Canton's loyal and brilliant supervisor, District Attorney of the County, figuring in some of the most prominent cases in its entire history, and acquiring distinction for his exceptional ability. He became County Judge. Chas. Evans Hughes called him from Canton to serve as counsel for the upstate Public Service Commission. This was in 1908 and for the next fifteen years he and his wife made their home in Albany, though

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they invariably spent their summers here in Canton, where they came to live after Judge Hale retired from public office.

To know this delightful woman was to enrich one's life. There was always a warm and happy welcome to those who crossed the threshold of their home.

When Miss Josephine Paige opened Canton's first library and turned for the help of friends, she found Mrs. Hale one of the first to respond. Mrs. Hale was one of the organizers of the Women's Library Association. She became a charter member of the Benton Board, and from its inception a stalwart, active and interested worker in all library affairs, not only that but as in everything else she found joy in helping. All of her life she possessed a passionate fondness for the beauty of flowers and her garden was always a choice spot, a thing of delight to her and many others. There, with the late Uncle Joe Wenom as her helper, she spent many happy hours surrounded by the beauty of fragrant flowers. She helped organize the Garden Club and was still active in its affairs until her illness. Before going to Albany she had joined the D.A.R. and in Albany became a member of the New England Women's Society, an organization interested in things historical. For many years she had been a member of the Canton Universalist Church.

For nearly four score years this woman had lived a remarkably useful life. She was never content to be just passively interested in the world about her but wished to do her part in making it better. Though she had deep convictions she was one never to give offense, and the sweetness of her smile, the merry twinkle of her eye, her keen understanding of things, won for her the affection of all.

Her husband's death during the fiftieth reunion of his college class in 1926 was met with fortitude and a rare philosophy of what life holds. To them had been born the two children, Miss Irma, now Mrs. Karl Pfund of this village, and the son, now Judge Horace C. Hale, of Canton. By them she was most tenderly cared for during her years of illness. Surviving besides the son and daughter are the four grandchildren, Miss Helen and Ledyard Pfund, and Ledyard and John Hale.

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