

[Heaton, Susan Luana Hart]

OBITUARY.

Susan Luana Hart, widow of the late Hon. Nathan Heaton, was born at Clinton, Oneida County, N.Y., on the 18th day of September, 1791, and was the eldest or first born of ten children, of Jonathan and Orpha Chapin Hart of that place. Her nine brothers and sisters were Caroline O., Seth C., Theodore E., John, Polly S., Harriet O., Hiram G., Eber C., and Daniel W., born in the order named, of which only three survive her, namely: Theodore E. Hart, of Canandaigua, N.Y., Mrs. Harriet O. Edwards, wife of Ex-Judge Edwards, of Homer, N.Y., and Hiram G. Hart of Clinton N.Y.

In March, 1815, at the age of seventeen, she married Nathan Heaton of Virgil, Cortland County, N.Y., and bid a temporary farewell to the home and associations of her childhood years, and assumed the duties and responsibilities of a wife and mother, where the log-house with its scanty furniture was the more common residence of the wealthiest as well as the poorest citizen, and the primeval forest threw out its dark shadows on either hand.

But in the husband of her choice, she had made no mistake. He, by his genial qualities and natural sympathetic kindness of heart, sterling integrity and devotion to principle, won the respect and confidence of his neighbors and all who knew him, and was honored by their suffrage by repeated elections to various town offices and, in the ever memorable campaign of 1840, was elected a member of Assembly for the Southern district of Cortland county on the Whig ticket, his colleague being the Hon. A.H. Mickle of Homer, N.Y. But he did not live to see the close of his term. Having returned home in February 1841 on a leave of absence for a few days to visit his family, he was taken sick and died in April following.

But to return to the subject of this notice, in her family relations she was strict and exacting but always candid and sincere, never indulging in unprofitable jokes or idle gossip, and in all matters of a public nature she took a lively interest which she enjoyed to the last, was well informed, and entered into conversations and discussions with those the best informed with a keen relish to the very latest weeks of her life.

Her religious sentiments were formed in youth, and were strengthened and ripened with age. Her parents being Universalists she discarded the idea of a future and endless punishment, and if there could be anything wanting to confirm her faith, it was furnished her daily, in her own household by the highest exemplification of a true life by a husband whose religious sentiments harmonized beautifully with her own.

Although a victim of disease and acute pains for many years, she greatly admired the beauties of nature by which she was surrounded and highly

[Heaton, Susan Luana Hart]

prized every privilege and enjoyment of life in the fullest sense to the very last, never once complaining of her suffering and, if momentarily cast down and despondent would suddenly cheer up and say, "Well, I ought not to complain, but be thankful as I am for the kind care, privileges and blessings I receive."

But all her earthly sufferings ceased on the 5th of June in the 80th year of her age; and she was called to pass on to a higher life, possessed to the very last of full consciousness. She quietly and calmly breathed her life out, surrounded by those who had so long and kindly administered to her wants, and a serene stillness that seemed to invest the scene with the thoughts that death is but the blooming of a higher life, and the beautiful and happy consummation of an earthly existence. She leaves four children surviving her, as follows: James H. Heaton, of Woodstock, Illinois, Caroline O. Richardson, widow of the late Wm. Richardson, of Canandaigua, Luana L. Messenger, wife of H. J. Messenger of Cortland, N.Y., and Adeline M. Brown, wife of Geo. W. Brown of Chicago.

Her funeral was attended on the 8th by Rev. Dr. [G. W.] Montgomery, Universalist, of Rochester, N.Y., assisted by the Rev. Dr. Street, Presbyterian, of Cortland, N.Y.

*Cortland County Democrat*, Cortland NY, 29 Jun 1877

Transcribed on 7 Apr 2008 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY