

[Hoffman, Sophia Curtiss]

OBITUARY.

Mrs. Sofia¹ Curtiss Hoffman, who was identified with many prominent women's clubs of this city, died yesterday in her eighty-fourth year at the residence of her daughter, Mrs. Katherine Morse, in New Rochelle. She had been ill for the last year, and the death of her son, Curtiss Hoffman, which occurred in Brooklyn a few weeks ago, is thought to have hastened her end. Mrs. Hoffman was born in Sheffield, Berkshire county, Mass., November 25, 1825, and was educated in a girls' academy at Great Barrington, Mass. When she was 20 years old she married George Hoffman, who was a prosperous farmer at Claverack, Columbia county, N.Y. When the Harlem Railroad was built through that section of the country he sold out his farm, and in 1854 he came to this city. After remaining here for a while he went to live in Hoboken, and started in the distilling and rectifying business. He then came to New York a few years later, and went to live at 117 West Forty-second street. He invested heavily in real estate in that part of the city, and when the war began he made a fortune on his holdings. He went to live at 509 Fifth avenue, which he purchased for his wife. Mrs. Hoffman became a member of Dr. [Edwin H.] Chapin's Church of the Divine Paternity [Fourth Universalist], and was one of the founders of the Chapin Home for old people. Emma Abbott, the opera singer, was a member of the choir in the church at that time, and Mrs. Hoffman became so much interested in her that she sent her to Europe to have her musical education completed. Mrs. Hoffman was an active member of the Sorosis Club, the Shakespeare Club and a number of other women's organizations. When the real estate panic of 1872 came on her husband met with reverses, and their home at 509 Fifth avenue was sold on foreclosure, and their furniture at auction. Mr. Hoffman died twenty years ago. She leaves a brother, Frank C. Curtiss, a broker, of 46 West Fortieth street; a daughter, Mrs. Morse; six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Mrs. Hoffman owned the house at 453 West 144th street, and the funeral will be held from there. She will be buried in the family plot at Claverack, near Hudson, N.Y.²

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¹ On her gravestone her given name is spelled Sophia.

² She is buried in the Claverack Dutch Reformed Churchyard in Claverack. There is also a memorial stone for her in Pine Grove Cemetery in Sheffield, Berkshire County, MA.