

[Hosley, Lillian]

LONG AND USEFUL LIFE ENDS

Miss Lillian Hosley passed away at two o'clock Monday morning, Feb. 3, at the home in Cuba where she has been cared for during the last few months of her long illness. She would have been eighty years old on the 12th of the present month.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, Feb. 5, in the Mason Funeral Chapel in this village. The Rev. Mr. Finley, formerly a pastor in Cuba, now of Rochester, officiated. Burial was in Maple Grove, cemetery, Friendship.

The following tribute to Miss Hosley's long years of devoted service was written by a personal friend:

Lillian Hosley was born at Kossuth, near Bolivar, Feb. 12, 1861, the third child of Abel Hosley and Mary Niver. The family soon moved to Richburg and thence to a farm a mile east of Friendship village, where most of Miss Hosley's childhood was spent. Later her father built the house on Main Street which has been her home ever since. (It was modeled after one, a picture of which she had cut from a newspaper and preserved as a child.) In Friendship she attended the Academy, from which she was graduated in 1880, being salutatorian of her class.

In a quiet and unassertive way Miss Hosley exerted a strong influence in the life of Friendship. Her chief contribution was to the Universalist Church and Sunday School and especially to the junior organization, a large class which she formed and with which she met on Sunday afternoons for years, its members including those from other churches as well as her own. Her young people gave a drinking fountain to the village and a children's window to the Universalist Church. They long made it their custom to visit the invalids and shut-ins of the village.

Miss Hosley contributed many articles to the Universalist Leader (now called the Christian Leader). She made addresses to the national conventions of the Universalist Church, attending sessions in Georgia, the Middle West and the New England States, and served for some time as national superintendent of Junior organizations. Through the meetings she attended she came to have a large acquaintance and correspondence in the church body.

In 1899, when a prize was offered for a hymn to commemorate the Universalist Jubilee celebration, Miss Hosley's hymn, "Lord of Light," received the award, a silver medal.

Besides her work in the national organization, Miss Hosley served her local church, supplying the pulpit in the absence of a pastor, writing her own sermons for those services. She once conducted a funeral to fulfill the wish of the dead friend.

Miss Hosley had also taken part in village affairs, serving on the school board for some years. Her interest in village improvement was expressed in a series of articles which she wrote for the Friendship Register about 20 years ago. The formation of the Daughters of Friendship gave her pleasure and she never willingly missed any of its gatherings. She was also active in the work of the local branch of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union.

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Miss Hosley will be especially remembered for her neighborliness and her charitable deeds. As example may be mentioned the daily care which she gave over a long period of years to an invalid woman who lived near her, whose house she took care of while she waited upon her needs.

Her own long illness, now ended, was marked by a patience of which her nurses always spoke, and the affection which she inspired in those who surrounded her even in her last days deserves note.

Gentle and frail and naturally timid, she shrank from public appearance, but the strength of her devotion to causes she loved gave her courage to appear on many platforms and to do difficult things well.

Her affection for her home village was perhaps her ruling characteristic: it was the expression of her native neighborliness. In her elder years many whom she had taught in the course of her self-appointed tasks came back to tell her how much of inspiration she had given them. Her life leaves a tradition worthy to be fostered in Friendship.

Miss Hosley will be buried in Maple Grove Cemetery, which was a part of her father's farm, where in caring for the grounds she often labored. She leaves a number of nieces, nephews, grandnieces and great grandnieces and nephews, in whom she was much interested and whose devotion to her was a tribute to her lovable nature.

The following stanzas from Miss Hosely's poem, "Jubilee Hymn", were read during her funeral services:

O Lord of Love! before thy throne
We humbly thank thee for thy care.
Lord, Here us as we gladly own
Thy love has made us what we are.

O Lord of Light! thy spirit burn
Into our souls that they may shine
With radiance, till men shall turn
To see their light and find it thine.

—Lillian Hosley

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Transcribed on 28 Oct 2014 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY