

[Lewis, Maria Barry]

Obituary.

Mrs. Maria Lewis was born in Connecticut May 28, 1815. When quite young she came with her parents, Elijah and Phebe Berry [Barry], to Chenango county. She joined the Universalist church in Oxford when twenty-four years of age and remained a faithful member during her long and useful life. The same year<sup>1</sup> she was married to Ezra D. Lewis and in 1845 they came to make their home in Jasper where they lived on a farm until after Mr. Lewis' death in April, 1880. The following fall Mrs. Lewis moved to the village and with her sister, Charlotte Barry, lived there till Miss Barry's death in 1893. A few months after the death of this sister she broke up housekeeping and has since divided her time between her sisters, Mrs. Robert Murphy, Canisteo, and Mrs. S. P. Casterline, of Hornellsville. She died at the home of the latter Friday, September 14. The funeral services were held at the house Saturday evening, Rev. [Lyman Hamilton] Squires [Universalist] officiating, and Sunday she was taken to her old home in Jasper, where loving hands placed her in the resting place prepared by her husband years ago.

Volumes might be written about her beautiful life and yet the half could never be told, for "none knew her but to love her, none named her but to praise." She was of a sweet and loving disposition and made friends wherever she lived, being "Auntie" to all the children, whom she especially loved, and to nearly everybody who came to know her well. She was a true and kind friend to the poor and a loving sympathizing friend to all in trouble.

The patience and resignation which she displayed during the long months of suffering which preceded her death will ever dwell in the memory of her friends, and all who possess any of the beautiful needlework which helped to while away many a weary hour, will cherish it in loving memory of the dear hands which were never idle.

Her faith in a better life to come was deep and steadfast and she welcomed the hour of her release with no fear, but was glad to go to meet the Lord whom she had faithfully served here, and heaven will be the richer for her presence there and the world will be better because she has lived.

Three sisters survive her, Mrs. Robert Murphy of Canisteo, Mrs. N. B. Hillborn of Collingwood, Canada and Mrs. S. P. Casterline.

*Canisteo Times*, Canisteo NY, Thu. 4 Oct 1900

Transcribed on 8 Feb 2015 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY

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<sup>1</sup> Married: In McDonough on 28 Feb by Rev. J[ohn] T. Goodrich, Ezra D. Lewis and Maria Barry [Barry], daughter of Elijah Barry [Barry] Esq., both of McDonough. (per the *Evangelical Magazine & Gospel Advocate* of Utica NY on 19 Apr 1839, a Universalist weekly newspaper)