

[Nelson, Martha]

Martha Nelson, Librarian, Passes at 87
City Resident 16 Years Was Graduate of First Columbia Library Course

Miss Martha F. Nelson, eighty-seven, of 218 Tecumseh Avenue, a well-known librarian and a graduate of the first course in library training ever given at Columbia University, died yesterday at her home after a long illness.

Miss Nelson was a daughter of the late Israel Potter Nelson, whose family came to this country in 1754, and of Jane Capen Nelson, who traced her ancestors in this country back to 1635. Miss Nelson was born in Cumberland Mills, near Portland, Me. She received her preliminary school training at the Cambridge, Mass., High school, and was associated with a bookshop in Boston for several years before enrolling in the Columbia library school.

Her first post was with the Women's Christian Temperance Union Library in Trenton, N.J. After several years, Miss Nelson became the head librarian in the State Normal School of Trenton, a post she held for more than 30 years.

Miss Nelson resigned from the Normal School when she was seventy and came to Mount Vernon where she made her home with her brother, Charles A. Nelson, who was reference librarian at Columbia University many years.

During the 16 years she resided in Mount Vernon, she attended the First Liberal Church [Universalist] and was a member of its Women's Auxiliary. She also was affiliated with the Mount Vernon Garden Club.

Miss Nelson is survived by two nieces, Mrs. R. A. Wetzell, with whom she made her home at the time of her death, and Mrs. C. R. Buck, of Swarthmore, Pa.

Funeral services will be held at the Tecumseh Avenue address tomorrow at 11 A.M., with the Rev. H. G. Richardson, minister of the Universalist Church, Yonkers, officiating. Cremation will take place at Ferncliff Cemetery.

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