

[Niven, Cora Robbins]

Mrs. Cora Niven Dies; County Official's Widow

Death, which miraculously passed her by in 1884, quietly ended the long, active life of Mrs. Cora Robbins Niven yesterday (Oct. 20, 1952) at the age of 94.

She was the widow of Frank R. Niven, onetime deputy Monroe County treasurer. They were married in 1884. Their romance began when he carried her from the scene of a freight train accident in Caledonia, in which she was the only survivor except for the engineer and fireman.

Her son, Frank R. Niven Sr. [Jr.], recalls being told how his father, then a clerk on the old Rochester, Buffalo & Pittsburgh Railway, now part of the B&O, rushed to the scene and helped pull the young woman from the wreck. They were married the same year.

He knew her then as the schoolteacher daughter of one of the line's first engineers, Amos Robbins. She had been riding in the caboose when it was struck from behind by a second train, killing six crewmen.

At that time, Cora Robbins was teaching at old School No. 6 at Lyell and Plymouth Ave., now the Church of St. Anthony of Padua.

Born July 30, 1858, in Massachusetts, she began teaching school there at the age of 16 and moved to Rochester with her parents at year later. She retired from teaching after her marriage.

Her husband died in 1947. He was deputy county treasurer for 30 years, and was widely known as an authority on government fiscal administration. One of his pupils was Clarence Smith, now Monroe county manager.

During World War I, Mrs. Niven knitted sweaters for soldiers overseas, and in World War 2 her production and craftsmanship in this service earned her a Red Cross citation. Her son described her as "one of those fine old New England women who always have to keep busy at something; she must have knitted hundreds of sweaters over the years.

She was a mainstay of the First Universalist Church's Wooden Grose Class, a women's service arm of the congregation, and taught Sunday school classes for a great many years. Many prominent Rochesterians of today were among her pupils.

Prior to her death shortly after noon yesterday in Maplewood Sanitarium on Lake Ave., she had been living at the home of her son on Seneca Pkwy. Among the survivors are another son, Henry A. Niven of Attleboro, Mass., five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Private funeral services will be held Thursday. Friends may call today and tomorrow at the C. F. Scheuerman Sons Funeral Home, 712 Main St. W. Burial will be at the convenience of the family.

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