

[Olin, Julia Pierce]

MRS. JULIA P. OLIN DIES IN SCHENECTADY
Funeral Services Held Here on Sunday Afternoon
Widow of the Late Herbert F. Olin Dies In Her 82nd Year

Following a general breakdown in her health, which had confined her to bed for a week, Mrs. Julia Pierce Olin, widow of the late Herbert F. Olin, of this village, died in Schenectady at the home of her daughters, the Misses Jessie and Marion Olin, on Friday evening. Her daughters accompanied the body to Canton where funeral services were held from the Universalist church Sunday afternoon, Rev. H. P. Morrill [Morrell] officiating and burial being made in the family lot at Evergreen Cemetery.

Mrs. Olin was not only a woman of exceptionally beautiful character but came of one of the oldest families of this township, as did her late husband. Julia Pierce was the daughter of Artimus [Artemas] and Celinda Carter Pierce, residents of West Potsdam, the family about which the Plaindealer ran an extended geneology [sic] about a year ago. As one runs back through the family history it is found that Artimus [Artemas] was the son of Howard J. Pierce who with two other Vermonters were the first settlers in West Potsdam, and in fact, of Potsdam.

Julia was born on December 25, 1852, in the old Pierce home, since burned, in West Potsdam, being the next to youngest of eight children, all but one of whom followed that family tradition of becoming teachers at some period in their lives. Of the eight children, three were boys and five girls. Only one, Mrs. Thomas [Amanda] Matthews, of Beverly Hills, Calif., survives. The other brothers and sisters were: Sarah, who became the wife of Dr. Horace Clark, of Potsdam; Ansel, who moved to Detroit; Saviah, who married Joseph Barnes, of Potsdam; Marion, who married Thomas Cann, of Decatur, Ill.; Charles, who like Ansel, moved to Detroit, and William H., who for many years resided on the old home farm in West Potsdam.

Before her marriage on September 1, 1880, to Herbert F. Olin, Julia Pierce had experienced the pleasures of attending district school and later becoming a teacher. About the time that Howard J. Pierce had come into the West Potsdam section in 1803, Thomas Olin had broken his way through virgin forests to settle land on what became the old fairgrounds in this village. Later the Olins, in numbers, settled what has ever since been the Olin District, or Corners. It was said at one time that of forty pupils attending the district school there, all but one were Olins. Benjamin, the descendant of Thomas, was father of Herbert, who took Julia Pierce as his bride.

Upon their marriage he took up farming as his honored profession, and followed it until his retirement in 1906 when he and his wife and their two

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daughters moved to the former Sheldon Brewer home on Pine street. Herbert Olin and his wife were the finest of people. For many years she served as Chaplain of Silas Wright Grange and he filled various offices in that order, many years as its secretary. He was the trusted assessor of the town many years. The family lived quietly and happily, the two daughters both graduating from St. Lawrence [University] and then went forth to teach as had so many of their forbears.

In 1926, following her husband's death, Mrs. Olin disposed of the Pine street home and had since resided with her daughters in Schenectady. The many friends express their sympathy to the daughters on the sad mission which brought them back to Canton over the weekend. They returned to Schenectady this morning, having been the guests of Mrs. Fred Church while here.

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Transcribed on 13 Jan 2013 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY