

[Richards, Ida M. Bates]

TOOK HER OWN LIFE
Evidences That Mrs. Richards' Death Was Not Accidental
CARBOLIC ACID POISONING
Neighbors Found the Despondent Woman in a Fastened Closet with Her
Clothes Burning and Dying from Effects of a Deadly Drug—
Had Been in Ill Health for Some Time

Mrs. Ida M. Richards, wife of William H. Richards, who was found in a closet of her home, 120 Gooding street, with her dress afire about 2 o'clock Tuesday afternoon, died at 3 o'clock p.m., but not from the effects of the burns she received. It appears that she died from the effects of carbolic acid, apparently taken with intent to end her life.

As stated in Tuesday's Journal a neighbor, Mrs. Frankie Reid, saw smoke issuing from the Richards home and running into the house saw that the smoke came from a closet in the rear part of the house. She summoned neighbors, who entered the house and found the closet door in question fast [locked]. They burst it open and found Mrs. Richards leaning against the door, upright but unconscious. Her lower skirts were afire, but the flames were quickly smothered. Her left arm and left leg were somewhat burned, but not badly enough to cause death. There were evidences on the face and about the mouth that she had taken some acid. Drs. Moore, Baker and Cosford were soon brought to attend her. They found marks on the lips, gums and chin and also an odor that showed carbolic acid to have been taken by her. Dr. Baker applied an antidote to the acid in large quantities, while Dr. Moore dressed the burns.

Mrs. Richards was, however, in a dying condition when found and she died despite their efforts. Investigation was made and two burned matches were found outside the closet door while a vial, empty and labeled carbolic acid, was found in a bin just outside the closet door. Mrs. Richard's son said he had had the vial filled with carbolic acid Monday night.

Mrs. Richards was in common with the other members of her family a very nervous woman and had been in ill health lately, while her domestic duties were quite burdensome. It is believed that all this led her in a fit of despondency to take her life.

Mrs. Richards was 44 years of age. She leaves, besides a husband, two sons, Fred and Ray; a daughter, Hazel; a mother, Mrs. Rhea Bates; two brothers and one sister in Buffalo. She was a member of Lockport Chapter, Order of Eastern Star.

The funeral will take place Friday afternoon at 2:30 from the house and at 3 from the Universalist church. Burial at Glenwood.

Lockport Journal, Lockport NY, Wed. 8 Oct 1902

[Richards, Ida M. Bates]

Unique Funeral Service at the Universalist Church.

THREE CLERGYMEN OFFICIATED.

Floral Tributes Numerous and Beautiful—Burial Services Conducted by
the Order of the Eastern Star—Forty Children Whom Mrs. Richards
Had Befriended and Entertained Present at the Grave

The funeral of Ida M. Richards, the wife of William H. Richards, took place this afternoon at 2:30 o'clock at the house, 320 Gooding street, and 3 o'clock at the Universalist church, of which she was a member. Rev. Otis F. Alvord, the pastor, officiated, assisted by Rev. G. W. Gallagher from the Masonic lodge, and Rev. E. P. Marvin, the pastor who married Mr. and Mrs. Richards. The church was filled to its utmost with sorrowing friends.

Mrs. Charles Wendell and Miss Elizabeth Balliett rendered several solos. There was an unusually large number of floral tributes, among which were beautiful pieces from the employees of the Fiber works, where Mr. Richards is a foreman, and by different societies to which the deceased belonged.

The services at the grave in the family lot in Glenwood were of an unusual character. The Order of the Eastern Star, the Woman's Masonic lodge, conducted very impressive ceremonies. There were also present 40 children whom Mrs. Richards had often entertained. These were addressed at the grave by Rev. G. W. Gallagher.

The bearers were: William Wicker, Fred K. Sweet, Theron Baldwin, Peter Murphy, John E. Pound and C. D. Ormiston

Lockport Journal, Lockport NY, Fri. 10 Oct 1902

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[Richards, Ida M. Bates]

UNUSUAL SCENE WITNESSED AT THE FUNERAL OF MRS. IDA. M. RICHARDS

Lockport, Oct. 11.—The funeral of Mrs. Ida M. Richards, wife of William H. Richards, was held from her late home in Gooding Street, at 2:30 o'clock yesterday afternoon and one half hour later from the Universalist Church. The Rev. O. [Otis] F. Alvord officiated at the house and Mrs. Charles Wendel and Miss Elizabeth Balliett rendered appropriate vocal selections. At the church the Rev. Alvord assisted by the Rev. G. W. Gallagher and the Rev. E. P. Martin officiated. At Glenwood Cemetery some forty children of the neighborhood who had been in the habit of being entertained by Mrs. Richards in life, gathered around the grave and the Rev. Gallagher paid especial attention to the little ones, reminding them of the death of their friend, benefactor and advisor. The services at the grave were conducted by Lockport Chapter No. 73, Order of the Eastern Star. The bearers were Theron Baldwin, F. K. Sweet, John Pound, C. D. Ormiston, P. D. Murphy and W. E. Wicker.

Buffalo Courier, Buffalo NY, Sun. 12 Oct 1902

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