

[Ritch, Mary Hillyer]

MISS MARY H. RITCH DIES IN HER 88TH YEAR

Was Native of North Salem

Descendant of Two Old Families Established North Salem Free Library and Was First Librarian.

On Sunday, October 11, 1953, Miss Mary Hillyer Ritch passed away at the Miriam Osborne Home in Harrison in the 88th year of her age.

Miss Ritch was born in North Salem, in the house now owned by Charles P. Kramer, and was descended from the Wallace and Keeler families. Her parents were Walter K. Ritch and Anna Hillyer Ritch; her paternal grandparents were Lewis and Esther Keeler Ritch, and her maternal grandparents were the Rev. and Mrs. Shaler J. Hillyer. Mr. Hillyer was pastor of the Universalist society more than 100 years ago, and was an outstanding man in the church and in the community. Miss Ritch was a devoted member of his church for her entire life.

On her graduation from Drew Seminary in Carmel she opened a small private school in North Salem; later she held a position with the Metropolitan Life Insurance company in New York.

When she returned to her country home in order to be with her parents in their declining years, she constantly interested herself in the best of the community activities: [she] was a charter member of the North Salem Improvement society, and the first librarian of the North Salem Free library, which without her untiring efforts might never have come into existence. She was also deeply interested in local history on which she possessed much material.

Her funeral services were held at the Miriam Osborne Home in Harrison on Tuesday afternoon. The interment service was conducted by her old friend and pastor, the Rev. Frederick T. Nelson, at the North Salem cemetery on the following day.

She is survived by a nephew, Lewis Ritch of Ridgebury, Conn., and two grandnieces.

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