

[Russell, Amanda Blanding]

AMANDA BLANDING RUSSELL

"And they took Pilgrim and laid him in an upper chamber, with his face toward the Sun Rising; and the name of that chamber was Peace."

All that was mortal of the true wife and mother, Amanda Blanding Russell, was, last Friday, laid in the chamber of peace...She is at rest in God, the Father, and may perpetual light shine on her.

Lonely, indeed, is the home over which she has presided; unutterably crushing is the sorrow which her aged husband is called upon to face, just as he is entering into the valley of years; full of yearning sorrow is the son to whom she was in every deed a mother. Her friends are legion and they all grieve; she was so loving, so true, so amiable, so cheery, so truly a life-blessor, that to lose her is to create a great blank over which the tendrils of hope as yet refuse to grow.

But her faith was secure and steadfast; she believed good of all and refused to listen to evil report. In that faith she lived, in that faith she died, in that faith she shall live again when this corruptible shall put on incorruption.

She was the youngest daughter of Royal and Nancy (Holbrook) Blanding, who early in the century left the hills and mountains of New Hampshire to build a home in the then wilderness of Central New York. After residing for a short time at Russia, Herkimer county, they removed to a farm in Brookfield, between this village and North Brookfield, and there Amanda was born on the 19th day of August, 1832. She went to the district school there, and it was beautiful to see her retain the friendships she then formed to the latest days of her life.

When a young lady she went to Cleveland, O., and in that city most of her life was spent, with occasional visits to her eastern friends, which were most delightful. It was while on one of those visits that she made the acquaintance of Mr. Russell, whose first wife, an old friend and playmate of her own, had died some years before. On the 22d of February, 1883, she was married to Mr. Russell at the residence of her brother, Joseph H. Blanding, at North Brookfield. Rev. A.[Albert] H. Marshall, pastor of the Universalist church at Madison, performed the ceremony. Since then Mr. and Mrs. Blanding and the officiating clergyman have all passed away. She came to Brookfield at once, and here she has lived since,...gaining the love as well as the respect of all. In Cleveland she also had hosts of friends who unite with her eastern friends in mourning her loss.

Her health had visibly declined for several years, and about a year ago it became apparent that she could not long remain with us. She long ago

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knew and accepted the fact calmly and resignedly. The last few days of her life were filled with the most excruciating pain, which only opiates could relieve, but at the last the pain left her and she was permitted to say: "Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace."

Her malady was one that refused utterly to yield to medical skill. She had been treated by Dr. Saulsbury, of Cleveland, and Drs. Palmer, of East Hamilton, and Irons, of this village, who have been unremitting in their care and kindness. She felt and appreciated their efforts in her behalf, as do the family.

An autopsy was held last Wednesday, which was attended by Dr. Palmer, of East Hamilton; Dr. Gifford, of Madison; and Drs. Irons, Brown and Burhyde, of this village. The cause of death was found to be the formation of a tumorous [sic] growth which attached itself to the intestines, and as a result of this, the collection of a large sac of pus. It was a matter of surprise that she could have lived so long, and only her strong courage and will bore her up under pain that a weaker woman would have sunk under.

Funeral services were held at her late home last Friday afternoon, at which Rev. E. W. [Elhanan Winchester] Fuller, pastor of the Universalist church at Poolville, officiated, assisted by Rev. C. A. Burdick, pastor of the S.D.B. [Seventh Day Baptist] church in this village. A large gathering of friends and relatives was present on the occasion, most of whom had attended her wedding nine years ago. Amid the tears and sincere sorrow of all her friends she was laid to eternal rest in the family plot in our beautiful cemetery.

R. [A. W. Russell]

Nov. 5th

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Transcribed on 5 Jan 2010 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY