

[Sanford, Margaret Landers]

Death Claims One of Oldest Residents in Community
Mrs Margaret Landers Sanford Passes While In Her 91st Year

Mrs. Margaret Landers Sanford, one of this community's most widely known and best beloved older residents, died Monday. She was in her 91st year.

Margaret Landers was born in Arlington, Mass., the only child of the Rev. Stephen P.¹ and Emily Barker Landers. In 1849 the family moved to this vicinity where Mr. Landers became interested in iron mines and helped develop the Franklin Iron Works. He built a home on the banks of Oriskany creek, about two miles south of Clinton, naming it Wilderneath." The house, first occupied by the family in 1864, is still in use, and is noted for the four immense Norway spruces that surround it, each over 90 feet tall.

Margaret Landers, who displayed artistic ability when only four years of age, was educated at Cottage Seminary [founded by Louisa Barker, a relative of her mother], and later studied art in New York City. She was instructed in oil painting by Mrs. Charlotte B. Cornan; water colors by Miss Kate Greaterox, and studied pen drawing and etching under Charles A. Vanderhoff. She has illustrated numerous books on travel as well as fiction, and contributed drawings for many magazines.

Miss Landers began to give lessons in painting at the age of 16 and continued more than half a century. She was art instructor at Houghton Seminary for 11 years. Most of her life was spent here and in Utica.

In 1889 she was married to the Rev. Webster B. Randolph who died in 1893. In 1896 she was married to William H. Sanford who died in 1902.

Mrs. Sanford was a member of the Universalist Church of the Reconciliation in Utica, and a member of Oneida Chapter, D.A.R.

She is survived by several distant cousins, as well as a number of stepsons and daughters, Mrs. Minnie S. Hall, San Francisco; Frank G. and Charles H. Sanford, Boulder, Colo., and the Misses Ida M. and Mabel Sanford who made their home with her.

The funeral service was held at her late home Wednesday afternoon. Rev. Robert Killam, pastor of the Church of the Reconciliation in Utica, of which Mrs. Sanford was the oldest member, officiated. The bearers were lifelong friends and neighbors, Arthur Suppe, Herman Suppe, Sherman Coates and Frederick Sautter. Interment was in Sunset Hill Cemetery.

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¹ A Universalist clergyman

Transcribed on 14 Jun 2018 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY