

[Saxton, Laura Anderson]

Death of Mrs. Laura A. Saxton

Mrs. Laura Anderson Saxton, widow of the late Franklin H. Saxton, died yesterday afternoon at her home in this village, in her 81st year. She was stricken with paralysis June 2 and had steadily failed from that date.

Mrs. Saxton was a daughter of Zimri and Rebecca (Northrup) Anderson, and was born on the Anderson farm on the Utica road, which has been in the possession of the family since 1800, when the grandfather of Mrs. Saxton, David Anderson, one of the pioneer settlers of this section, came here from Brimfield, Mass. He built the house, recently removed, which stood where the new bungalow of a descendant, William O. Anderson, now stands. Later Mrs. Saxton's father built the house a little to the south of the old homestead, which is now the home of her niece, Mrs. C. O. Bailey.

Mrs. Saxton was the last survivor of her father's family of seven children, she being the only daughter. She possessed a fine mind which early marked her as a woman of exceptional character and attainments. The foundation for her liberal education and for her subsequent career of more than forty years as a teacher, was laid in the old-time district school and completed in the Clinton Liberal Institute [a Universalist institution]. She began her career as a teacher in Wisconsin in 1854, where she went to reside with an uncle. Later she returned to Clinton and taught in the public school, then went to Little Falls where she taught for three years. Returning again to Clinton she taught in the Clinton Liberal Institute, and subsequently for a number of years conducted a private school for little children. She loved little children, and that was one of the secrets of her success as a teacher.

To show her devotion to her calling as a teacher, it is related of her that when a young woman just starting as a teacher, she became engaged to a young man who had been her playmate and school friend. This was about the time she went to Wisconsin to teach, and so devoted was she to her work that the promised marriage was deferred, until the young man sought another life partner, and it was not until the latter's death and when Miss Anderson was 70 years of age that she and Mr. Saxton renewed the vows of their youth and were married, living together most happily until his death two years ago.

Mrs. Saxton, like all the Anderson family of her generation, was a strong Universalist. In her life and character she exemplified the finest Christian virtues. She was loved and respected by all who knew her and her memory will be revered through life by hundreds of her former pupils.

Her nearest surviving relatives are nieces and nephews. Those living in Clinton are Mrs. C.M. Champion, Mrs. C.O. Bailey, Miss Lizzie Anderson and William O. Anderson.

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Mrs. Saxton's funeral will be held at the home of her sister-in-law, Mrs. Charlotte Anderson, on Water street, on Friday afternoon at 3 o'clock, and will be conducted by Rev. George C. Baner, pastor of the Church of the Reconciliation, Utica. Interment in Sunset Hill Cemetery.

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Transcribed on 2 Feb 2011 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY