

[Seward, Antha Steele]

DEATH OF MRS. SEWARD

Mrs. Truxton Seward died at her home in this village about 1 o'clock on Saturday, the 12th inst., at the advanced age of 83 years. About four years ago she had a shock of paralysis [a stroke] which seriously affected her physical, but not her mental, capabilities. A second shock in October, 1888, greatly prostrated her body, and gradually affected her mind, and from this time her decline was gradual but constant. Her last days and hours were exceedingly calm, and the great sleep of her second childhood came over her as gently as the first repose on her mother's bosom. The face in the casket was as placid and untroubled as was the baby face in the cradle eighty-three years ago. Her maiden name was Antha Steele. Her father, Captain Roderick Steele, came from Connecticut, and was an officer in the war of 1812. He was a solid man of the town of Richmond, then Pittstown, being mentioned in the standard history of Ontario county as one of the twenty-three early settlers. Antha had three brothers and three sisters, of which Rhoda, now Mrs. Harvey Bush, of Belvidere, N.J., and Polly, now Mrs. John D. Alger, of Grand Rapids, Mich., are the only survivors. Antha was born Sept. 6, 1806, in the old Pittstown, where, in the home circle, she took the successive degrees in the great school of life, up through infancy, childhood, girlhood, to maturity, without the machinery of grades, or the misery of competitive examinations. In 1880 she was married to [Sutlief] Truxton Seward, also a resident of Richmond, by the Rev. Mr. Lyman, then pastor of the Presbyterian church at Richmond Center.

Isaac Seward, Truxton's father, was a native of the same good old Connecticut from which Antha's father came, as we have seen. Isaac Seward's father left his native State when Isaac was quite young and settled in Lebanon, Columbia county, N.Y., and brought his son up to the business of a currier and tanner. Isaac in turn brought his son Truxton up to the same trade. About 1818 Isaac moved with his family to Richmond, where he carried on the tanner and currier business till his death, and where Truxton also tanned and curried hides for a quarter of a century, part of the time and Honeoye Flats and part of the time at Richmond Mills—better known as Frost's Hollow. Truxton Seward and his father had a very distinguished relative—William H. Seward of Auburn—Isaac and William H. being cousins. Truxton and Antha Seward had seven children, as follows: Dwight, now a farmer of Edgewood, Delaware county, Iowa; Fidelia, now Mrs. Richards, living in the same place as her brother Dwight; Acanth G., who died, when 87 years old, in Richmond; Amelia, who died at the age of 8 years; Adolphus S., who died when 6 years old; Albert O., now a farmer at Delaware, Delaware county, Iowa, and Edith C., well known in Richmond and Livonia as the faithful daughter, companion, and constant attendant and solace of her aged parents.

With the exception of two years in Canadice, soon after her marriage, Mrs. Seward spent her whole life in the town of Richmond until about six years ago,

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when, with her family, she removed to this village. She was always fond of music, had a good voice and in her younger days was a leading singer in the church choir at Richmond Center. This love of singing never left her. After her body became so enfeebled she could not walk, and her mind that she could not talk coherently, she would very often sing some old tune in soft, sweet tones, speaking the words correctly and distinctly. She was brought up in the old Calvinistic faith, but after mature years her sympathies and her faith broadened till they were universal in their grasp—believing that her Heavenly Father has love and discipline and schools of betterment in the next world, as well as in this, for all His children—especially the worst, for they need them more. So she never worshiped her Maker through the medium of any church, feeling that kindness to her fellow creatures was the only avenue to His heart. Her nature was quiet, gentle, unobtrusive, earnest. She inspired the respect and friendship and love of all who knew her. She was a true woman, a devoted wife, a fond and faithful mother, loyal and respondent to every relation and duty.

In compliance with her known wishes, her funeral was held at the house where she had spent her last years and days. Rev. Dr. Asa Saxe [Universalist] of Rochester conducted the exercises and preached a sermon that was highly commended by people of all shades of religious faith. A quartette consisting of Mrs. W. F. Gelston, Mrs. J. C. Smith, Mr. Fred Locke and Mr. Daniel Damon, sang music that was unusually appropriate and sweet. The bearers were the Rev. Mr. West, John Carpenter, Elton Bolles, Rodney Hatch, Alden Adams and Jerry Wheelen. The afternoon was one of October's best, and the procession to the old burial ground at Richmond Center was large. What could be more suggestive and fitting to this whole scene than one of [John Greenleaf] Whittier's verses quoted by Dr. Saxe:

I know not where His islands lift
 Their fronded palms in air;
I only know I cannot drift
 Beyond His love and care.

H. D. K.

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[paragraphs created by transcriber]

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