

[Spaulding, Eva]

FUNERAL OF MISS EVA SPAULDING TO BE WEDNESDAY
Instrumental in Securing Benton Library for Canton Village

Just as the hour of six struck last evening death came to one of Canton's best known and most civic-minded women, Miss Eva Spaulding of Judson street. For more than a year she had been in failing health so that the end was fully expected.

Canton has, and will continue to benefit in large measure for having had Miss Spaulding as one of its people. To her more than to any other local person, is due the credit for the presence of the Benton Library in this village. Memory of her will also cover the many years she devoted to the work of the Women's Christian Temperance Union.

Miss Spaulding was born not far from Langdon's Corners on the farm which has continued in the family to the present. The date of her birth was November 10, 1862, and her parents were Washington and Helen Benton Spaulding. She was brought up in that fine old neighborhood which included such families as the Landons, the Bakers, the Claflins, Southworths, Grays, and the Mathew Wallace, Salmon Squires, Nelson Sanderson, Harvey Knox and many others, all early settlers of that section.

With her two sisters Lury and Anna, and her brother, Frederick B. Spaulding, a St. Lawrence University graduate, who was later to become a school teacher and principal in Brooklyn, she enjoyed the advantages which the district school of that day afforded. It was not an elaborate curriculum to be sure, but it was thorough. It provided her with knowledge and understanding, which with the teaching of the home, helped to form those Christian ideals and fine principles to which she was to devote much of her life.

There were a few years at the Potsdam Normal followed by a period of teaching district school. Then after her father died, Miss Spaulding and her mother moved to Minneapolis, Minn., where they lived in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Benton, Mr. Benton being a wealthy industrialist of that section. This couple became greatly attached to their niece, who had a few years before mothered her cousin, the young lad Jay W. Benton, following the death of his father. Mr. and Mrs. Walter Benton took a great interest in both this niece and this nephew, and through this attachment came their interest in Canton and its people. From that interest followed Mrs. Benton's admiration for what the ladies of Canton were toing to provide a public reading room here and their heroic efforts to secure a library building. This was a project close to Miss Spaulding's heart. On a visit here Mrs. Benton became so imbued with enthusiasm over the spirit of the Canton ladies that

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the Benton library building, and much of its present endowment was forthcoming.

It followed naturally that Eva Spaulding became a charter member of the board of trustees of Benton Library. She was the last charter member still sitting with the board. Much of her energies in these later years was [sic] devoted to the affairs of that board and the library.

Miss Spaulding was for a time engaged in teaching kindergarten and when returning here from Minneapolis took part in having kindergarten teaching organized in this village. She was especially interested in a religious chapel and kindergarten which once occupied a building on upper Milner street.

A woman of intensely sincere religious training and interest she was most devoted to church affairs, being a member of the Universalist faith and active in its ladies' organization, especially its mission circle, for she was a missionary at heart. This depth of her interest in helping build a better world led her to her life-long activity and support of the temperance cause.

Miss Spaulding came from one of Canton's oldest families. As mentioned, the late Jay W. Benton was an own cousin, and became like a nephew or son to her. The late Herman and Chloe Spaulding Mead were her uncle and aunt. They were the parents of Miss Sadie Mead, of Oakland, Calif., and of Clarence Mead and Mrs. Addie Gray of Canton.

Other immediate surviving relatives include a nephew, Carl Spaulding, of Brooklyn, and a niece, Mrs. Helen Bradbury of Briar Cliff Manor, and a great niece and nephew, Katherine and Frank, children of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Spaulding.

Funeral services will be from Miss Spaulding's Judson street home on Wednesday at 2:30 in the afternoon. Burial will be at the Crary Mills cemetery.

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