

[Stearns, Chloe A.]

MISS CLOE [SIC] STEARNS BURIED TUESDAY

Winthrop, Oct. 11.—Funeral services were held at 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon for Miss Chloe A. Stearns, 101, who passed away in Hutchinson, Minn., at the home of her niece, Mrs. Grace Gordon Sheppard, Thursday evening, Oct. 8. For the past year Miss Stearns had been very frail, totally blind and confined to her bed.

She was born in Holmes Hill, Winthrop, Aug. 10, 1841, one of six children of Ralph P. and Clarissa Holmes Stearns. The hamlet was named for her grandfather, Benjamin Holmes. A brother and sister died in infancy. A brother, Webster Stearns, died in Loughman, Fla., in 1918, a brother Omar P. Stearns in Winthrop in 1929 and a sister, Mrs. Eunice Goodnow passed away in Hutchinson, Minn. in 1920.

Miss Stearns used often to tell of the tin lamp, with wick in crude oil, but no chimney, no heat in the tiny room where she and her sister slept, when the only toy was a doll made of a rolled shawl, when a home trimmed straw hat served for summer and winter, when shoes were made by a cobbler in the home and the whole family outfitted; when the only gifts at Christmas were an apple, one stick of candy and a frosted cupcake. When school age came and the children attended the district school, if a piece of pie was taken in the pail for dinner there was none for supper. A whole day would be spent dipping 20 dozen candles, the wicks of which had been strung on sticks the previous evening. Miss Stearns earned money for her first shawl by knitting socks for a peddler at 25¢ per pair, the yarn for which was spun and colored by "mother." After the shawl was purchased, the owner would dread to have Sunday come as she feared the neighbors would think her "stuck up" if she wore the treasured shawl to church.

Miss Stearns attended a select school at Brasher Falls for a time, taught by a Mr. Adams of Parishville. Later she taught select school in Potsdam in "Session Hall". Among her pupils were Abbie Brooks, Hattie (Dart?), the Turner sisters, Helen Partridge and Ella Holmes.

She also clerked for many years in her brother Webster's general store across the road from her home.

In 1889 she made her first trip to Hutchinson to visit her niece, Mrs. Goodnow, and made six trips thereafter. She accompanied her brother, Omar and wife, to Florida where they spent the winter of 1913, and visited their brother, Webster, at Loughman. Her father passed away in 1883. In August, 1886, Miss Stearns and her mother moved to a new house in Winthrop where she made a real home for three Brasher-Stockholm High school principals, also many of its pupils, among them being Clyde McEwen of Potsdam, Dr. Frank E. Leslie of Mendota, Wis., Dr. Frank V. Ballou,

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Washington, D. C, Mrs. Josie Williams Brown, Canton, Paschal Ellithorp, Ogdensburg,

Miss Caroline Sumner, Syracuse and Mrs. Bertha Lewis Shepard, Norwood.

Her mother, blind for several years, passed away in 1904. Miss Chloe sold her home and rented apartments, caring for herself until she went to Minnesota in May, 1932.

Miss Stearns was deft with her needle and many beautiful pieces of hand work are left with her relatives. She was a faithful member and attendant of the Winthrop Universalist church, joining soon after it was dedicated in 1888.

Surviving are four nephews and six nieces, Hal H. Stearns, Cleveland, Ohio; Deforest Goodnow, Hardin Mont.; Warren B. Goodnow and Ralph O. Stearns, Winthrop; Mrs. Grace G. Sheppard, Hutchinson,, Minn.; Frances A. Stearns and Mrs. Veva S. Bierce, Tampa, Fla.; Mrs. May S. Townsend, Westbrook, Me.; Mrs. Maude S. Ellison and Mena Stearns, Winthrop.

Services were held from the home of her niece, Mena Stearns, Dr. John Murray Atwood, Canton, officiating. Interment was made in the family lot in Winthrop cemetery.

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Transcribed on 30 May 2009 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY