

[Stevens, Fidelia A. Washburn]

ALLENDALE

It is with sadness that I pen these lines on the death of a beloved aunt, Mrs. Fidelia A. Stevens, who departed this life at the home of her only son, Merton M. Stevens, in Erie, Pa. on March 2, 1915, aged 76 years, 8 months and 9 days. Although in poor health for years, she suffered an attack of bronchial pneumonia, and did not have the vitality to overcome the disease.

Fidelia A. Washburn was born at Mannsville, June 23, 1838, the oldest of nine children born to Joseph E. and Susan Waterman Washburn. While quite young she taught a select school at Mannsville.

On January 1, 1855 she was united in marriage to Washington Stevens of Henderson. Soon after their marriage they moved to the state of Pennsylvania, living there nearly seven years. While there her husband enlisted in the 186th Reg. Pen. Vols. During this time two of her brothers, J. Maxcy and Leighton Washburn were serving in the war. Leighton was taken prisoner and died in the rebel prison Dec. 13, 1864, aged 18 years, 8 months and 12 days. These were dark days for the young wife, but her husband and brother were spared to come back from the war. They moved back to Mannsville where they lived on Douglas street for about seven years. Her husband followed the occupation of sailing for several seasons, being a lake captain, and she accompanied him on his trips. During the rest of their married life they lived on their farm below Stony Creek, town of Henderson, until Mr. Stevens passed away April 9, 1903. The farm was then rented to Mr. Benoit and Mrs. Stevens lived there a couple of years, after which the farm was sold. At different intervals she has made her home with her son in Erie, and her brother Maxcy Washburn of this place. Has lived with her brother in all about six years. It was on this visit to her son that she was taken with the dread disease and passed away.

She, with her husband, was a member of the Universalist church, also of the grange at Henderson, and always taking an active part in the work of both. Two sons were born to them, Edon and Merton, the former dying when about ten years of age.

Her life was full of kind thoughts of others, of unselfish devotion to her many friends, who are better because she had lived. She was of a sunny disposition, which helped her to win many friends. Of her it can truly be said, "None knew her but to love her."

The funeral was held at the home of her son, 1810 Raspberry street, Erie, Pa., on March 4th, and the following morning the body arrived at Adams to be taken to Henderson for burial in the family lot in the Carpenter cemetery.

She leaves her only son Merton; two grandsons, Olin and Harold Stevens; three great-grandchildren, all of Erie; two brothers, J. Maxcy Washburn of this place and John E. Washburn of Oswego; an aunt nearly ninety years of age, Mrs. Harriet. Brown of Mannsville, who at this writing is critically ill of pneumonia; also several nephews, nieces, cousins, and friends who are legion.

The tribute is respectfully dedicated to her memory by her niece.

Addie M. Hurd

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[abridged]