

## [Stevens, Mary Sykes]

### MRS. MARY STEVENS PASSES SUDDENLY

Came of Early Sykes Family

Mrs. Mary Sykes Stevens, a lifelong resident of the town of Canton, a member of the pioneer Sykes family of Canton, whose home has been in this village for nearly sixty years, passed away suddenly Friday evening. Mrs. Stevens had been in excellent health; on Wednesday she attended the golden anniversary of the coming of the Priest family to Canton, and at that time impressed many who met her as one who had still further to go on life's journey. Funeral service was conducted Monday at 2 o'clock at the First Universalist Church and interment was made at Fairview.

Mrs. Stevens was a member of a family that has been known to the town of Canton for many generations, in fact, from its very early pioneer days. The Sykes' settled on fine farming land about two miles north of this village. The town chronicles of old days bear the name of Heber Sykes and other Sykes. This was the family of Edwin Sykes, father of Dr. Richard Eddy Sykes, president of St. Lawrence University, and Bingham Sykes, father of Mrs. Stevens. Her mother was Lydia Aldrich Sykes, the Aldrich family being likewise of early settlers of Canton.

Mrs. Stevens was born on May 26, 1855. She was educated in the local district school and the old Canton Academy. In 1876 she married Elbert E. Stevens of Canton and they took up their married life in this village. Mr. Stevens was long engaged here prior to his death. He established the Stevens store on Main Street at this time conducted by the son, Bing S. Stevens. Mr. Stevens passed away in 1922.

Mrs. Stevens was all her mature years interested in the things about her. She always took a hand in the life of the community. She was active as a member of the Universalist Church and the societies associated with that church; she was a member of Empire Chapter, No. 68, Order of Eastern Star. She took a very intimate interest in student life at the university and had a friendly acquaintance with student life on the hill during her years of vigor and discernment.

Mrs. Stevens lived to see the street where her home was—Park Street—lose one after another of the many friends who went in and out the doors of the homes along the street. Now only one of her generation inhabits that street, where a few years ago there was open house and welcome from the old American House on the corner to University Heights.

Dr. James M. Payson, a friend of nearly sixty years of the family officiated at the service yesterday.

Mrs. Stevens leaves an only son, Bing S. Stevens of Canton; two grandchildren, Aldine and Brayton Stevens; a niece, Mrs. Gertrude Sahlin of Benton Harbor, Mich., who made her home in the Stevens family before her marriage to the Rev. George A. Sahlin, a graduate of Canton Theological School and a minister of the Universalist Church.

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