

[Sykes, Mabel Houghton]

Widow of Dr. Richard Eddy Sykes Dies Mon., Services Wed.

Mrs. Mabel Houghton Sykes, widow of the late Richard D. Sykes, president of St. Lawrence University from 1919 to 1935, passed away Monday, Nov. 24, at the home of her daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph H. Michaels. Mrs. Sykes was ninety-five years old Nov. 15.

Until two years ago, Mrs. Sykes lived in her own home on Hillside Road, keeping actively busy in her large and beautiful garden and maintaining a keen interest in world affairs. She was a great reader, and her love of books, music, flowers and especially her family and friends, enriched her declining years and kept her young in spirit.

She was born in Little Falls, New York of Emma Gay and Byron K. Houghton. After attending local schools she was a student at Clinton Liberal Institute at Fort Plain, New York and later at [Le__?] Art School. After graduation she taught painting in Little Falls.

When Dr. Sykes became pastor of the Universalist Church in Little Falls, following his graduation from the Theological School of St. Lawrence University, she was a member of his congregation. They were married in 1888. Thru their fifty-four years of married life together she was constantly at his side, sharing actively in his years of ministry in Little Falls and Dolgeville, New York, Denver, Colorado and Malden, Mass., and later the presidency of St. Lawrence University.

Dr. Sykes was well known in the Universalist denomination as a builder of churches, and Mrs. Sykes shared his interest and accompanied him on many trips to study beautiful churches. Money was raised and churches were built in Dolgeville, Denver and Malden, and finally their dream was realized of a chapel on the hill at St. Lawrence University with a spire visible from all the countryside around.

During these years also Mrs. Sykes took an active part in her husband's parishes, and made all welcome who sought him in his home for counsel or help.

Wherever the couple lived they were active in community organizations as well. In Canton, in addition to her many duties as university president's wife, she was for many years a member of the Board of Trustees of Benton Library and at one time served as its chairman. She was also a member of the Garden Club for many years and an active church worker in the Universalist church.

She is survived by two daughters, Mrs. Felix Frederiksen of Faribault, Minn. Mrs. Ralph H. Michaels of Canton; three grandchildren: Miss Joan E. Frederiksen of New York, Dr. Richard H. Michaels of Bergenfield, N.J., Miss Nancy H. Michaels of Canton; and two great-grandsons, Stephen and Scott Michaels of Bergenfield. She also leaves a sister, Mrs. Felix Berthold of Little Falls; a niece, Mrs. Kenneth Bradshaw of Little Falls; and a nephew, Edwin G. Sykes of Canton.

Funeral services will be conducted by Dr. Max A. Kapp, and will be held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Michaels at 12 College St. on Wednesday at 2 o'clock.

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