

[Thayer, Julia Horton]

MRS. JULIA HORTON THAYER

In the death of Mrs. Julia H., wife of Joshua L. Thayer, October 2, 1917, Sherman loses her foremost woman. At the time of her death she was a grand trustee of the O.E.S. of this state; president of the Western New York Federation of Women's Clubs; president of the Board of Trustees of the Minerva Free Library, and treasurer of the Civic Improvement committee. During her lifetime she had been worthy matron of Acacia Chapter O.E.S.; district deputy of the order in this district, and had held the different offices in the Grand Chapter leading up to that of Grand Matron which office she honored in 1911-1912; president of Minerva Club, besides various other positions of honor and trust in the community. Yet with all these public duties, she did not neglect her home where she was a most loyal and devoted wife and mother, or her church in which she was a faithful worker.

Mrs. Thayer was broad minded, of even temperament and with a faculty for doing everything well which she undertook. It was these qualities which made her a natural leader and showered honors upon her. The home, church and social circles, as well as the various organizations which honored her and which she honored as well, have suffered a seemingly irreparable loss.

Julia Horton Thayer was born in Leon, Cattaraugus county, February 3, 1854, being the only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Spencer C. Horton. The family came to Sherman when she was quite young, so that the greater part of her life has been spent in this place. She was married to Joshua T. Thayer November 6, 1873. To them were born two children, Amos H. Thayer, who died a few years ago, and Mrs. James G. Pratt of this place. Besides the husband and daughter, she leaves three grandchildren, Philip, Julia and Thayer Pratt, a stepmother, Mrs. Julia Hanford Horton, one half sister, Mrs. Cora Horton Coleman, and one half brother, Clyde S. Horton of Brockville, Canada.

Mrs. Thayer's illness was of four months' duration, during which time she was a great sufferer, being free from pain only when under the influence of opiates. Although known to be failing, yet her death was a great surprise to the community and even unexpected by those who were caring for her.

Thus at the early age of 63, at the meridian of her powers and usefulness "the silver cord is loosed, the golden bowl broken and the spirit has returned to God who gave it." Dimmer shine the stars in many a household because of her untimely death, but they shine with renewed splendor in the mansions above where there is a reunion with loved ones gone before. May we not hope and believe that her freed spirit will also still be with those who remain, to cheer and help them, as in the days when she walked life's pathway side

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by side with them? Surely the memory of her noble life will be an inspiration to all who knew her, and many in the years to come will rise up and call her blessed.

The funeral was held Thursday at the Universalist church, Rev. F. J. Dressier officiating, assisted by Rev. C. C. Cornwell of the Presbyterian church. The remains were taken to the church during the forenoon and many availed themselves of the opportunity to look, for the last time, upon the face of one whom they loved and honored. The Minerva Club, Acacia Chapter, Directors of the State Bank of Sherman and Board of Trustees of Minerva Library attended in a body. The floral offerings were especially numerous and beautiful.

The remains were taken to Westfield for burial, where the Eastern Star burial service was given at the grave by Worthy Matron Mrs. Nina Hall, Worthy Patron H. E. Perkins, and acting chaplain, I. O. Ottaway. Many members of the order from different parts of the country as well as other friends, were gathered there to pay their last tribute of love.

Among those present from a distance were Dr. and Mrs. Ray Johnson, Miss Julia Thayer, Mrs. Reading, Mrs. Ellers and Mrs. Sornberger of Buffalo; Mr. and Mrs. Frank Babbitt of Corry; N. J. Horton of Ripley; Mr. and Mrs. Byron Fenner of Westfield; Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Horton of Brockville, Can., Mrs. Sheldon, Miss Hinckley, Chautauqua.

On account of the uncertain train service, most of the friends met the funeral party at Westfield.

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