

[Wells, Margaret E. Hayes]

Mrs. Leon W. Wells, 52, Succumbs

Mrs. Margaret E. Hayes Wells, 52, wife of Leon W. Wells, 162 Flower avenue east, fourth grade teacher at the Starbuck school, where her husband is the principal, died at 11:25 Monday night in the House of the Good Samaritan, where she had been a patient since Feb. 25.

Mrs. Wells had been ill two years, having undergone an operation for a pelvic ailment in the House of the Good Samaritan in the summer of that year. However, she continued to teach, as usual, until last October. she underwent another operation—this time for an intestinal condition—in the same hospital last November.

The funeral will be held Thursday afternoon at 2 at the Cleveland funeral home. Rev. Blaine F. Hartford, pastor of the All Souls Universalist church, will officiate. Burial will be in the Dexter cemetery.

Members of the family have requested the contributions be made to the Jefferson County chapter of the American Cancer society in Mrs. Wells' name.

Surviving her, besides her husband, are her mother, Mrs. Harriette Crumb Hayes, Massey street road, near Smithville; two daughters, Miss Kathryn Ann Wells, 21, who will be graduated from the State University college at Potsdam in June, and Miss Gwendolyn S. Wells, 16, a junior at the Watertown High school, and two brothers, Norris C. Hayes, Field Settlement, and Wenzell A. Hayes, near Smithville.

Her father, Arthur H. Hayes, died at the age of 78 on Aug. 24, 1963, at the family farm home on the North Harbor road, between Adams Center and Smithville.

Mrs. Wells was born in Chaumont Sept. 30, 1913, a daughter of Arthur H. and Harriette Crumb Hayes. With her parents she moved to the farm between Adams Center and Smithville, in 1915.

She was graduated from the Adams Center High school in 1929, then took a post-graduate course at the Adams High school, was graduated from the Dexter Teachers' Training class in 1931 and from the Potsdam Normal school in 1936.

Mr. Wells, to whom she was later married, was also a member of the 1931 class at the Dexter Teachers' Training class.

For two years—1932 to 1934—she taught in a rural school of Watertown district No. 10, near the old Jefferson Farm school, and from 1936 to 1942 was a grade school teacher at the Union school in Canandaigua.

She was married to Leon W. Wells, of Limerick, Aug. 14, 1940, at the Hayes family home, between Adams Center and Smithville, by Rev. Dr. Harry Westbrook Reed, one-time pastor of the All Souls Universalist church

[Wells, Margaret E. Hayes]

here. Mr. Wells is a son of Mrs. Luke E. Wells, now of Dexter, and the late Mr. Wells of Limerick and Dexter.

Mr. Wells was a teacher at Wolcott from 1938 to 1942 while Mrs. Wells was teaching in Canandaigua. The couple came to Dexter in 1942 and Mrs. Wells was a substitute teacher in the area, in 1943 and 1944 teaching at Limerick.

Mr. and Mrs. Wells came to Watertown in 1947 when Mr. Wells joined the local public school system. Mrs. Wells was a substitute teacher in local schools until September, 1950, when she was assigned to the Lansing street school, which was later discontinued. In 1953 she was assigned to the Starbuck school, where she had since taught the fourth grade. The new school was opened at that time.

Mr. Wells, former principal of the Ohio and State street schools, has been the principal of the Starbuck school since 1960.

Mrs. Wells was a member of the First Universalist church of Dexter, the Watertown Education association, and New York State Teachers' association and the National Education association.

*Daily Times*, Watertown NY, Tue. 10 May 1966

Transcribed on 9 Nov 2015 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY