

## [Wescott, Harriet "Hattie" Murphy]

### DEATH OF MRS. HATTIE WESCOTT OCCURS AT HER HOME ON CHESTNUT RIDGE

For several days the death angel had been hovering over our little community of Chestnut Ridge, and on Friday, April 24, just at the closing of the day, the grim messenger of death quietly entered the home of the Widow Wescotts, as they are best known to a legion of friends and acquaintances, and where lay Hattie Wescott, the elder of the two widowed sisters, who was stricken with paralysis Oct. 16, and where for so many months, surrounded by her dear ones and rendered the very best care love and esteem could give, she was quietly beckoned away.

Her passing will recall to many the events of a life filled with good deeds and an unselfish disposition; everybody's friend and nobody's enemy. Born on a farm near Dexter 78 years ago, she was one of the six children born to the late Henry and Laura Fuller Murphy. They were as follows: Nathaniel of Bay City, Mich; Josephine, William and Frank, of Dexter; all deceased, and Sarah, the youngest, by whom she is survived. A remarkable circumstance has been the close tie of kinship between these two sisters throughout their whole lifetime. On December 21, 1869 Hattie Murphy married Byron Wescott and came a bride to the home she occupied until her death. Nine years later, on March 12, 1878, her youngest sister Sarah married her husband's youngest brother Nelson, and also came to the same home, a bride[.] [O]n Sept. 5, 1879 the two husbands, Byron and Nelson, together with seven other men with their sailing yacht, the Westwind, were on their way to attend a boat race at Henderson Harbor, where they were to participate in the race, both being excellent boatmen[.] [B]ut when only a little way from shore, or about halfway between Campbell's Point and Rogue's Rest on F. S. Ramsey's shore, their boat sank, causing the death of seven of the nine men who had so gaily just waved adieu to their wives and mothers who were still standing on the beach to see them off. In almost the twinkling of an eye the two who had come as brides so short a time before were bereaved widows[.] [B]ut throughout those long sorrowing days and the hard struggles they had to meet, those two sisters have stood shoulder to shoulder and braved the hardships, reared and educated their children, and won the love and esteem of everyone who knows them; and that means many, for when the calamity of their husbands' deaths occurred, even strangers for miles came to sympathize and became life long friends. Their bravery is an example for us all and the name of the Widow Wescotts is known better and for more miles than any other on Chestnut Ridge; for it has been their title 47 years.

Mrs. Hattie Wescott is survived by two children, Belle and George. Belle married Jesse Ingram of Virginia, a Spanish war veteran, about 21 years ago

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and has one daughter, Laura. They reside in Washington, D. C. George married Matilda Weeks of Mitchell, S. Dak., about 20 years ago, and has worked the home farm and made it possible for the mother and aunt to continue living in the old home and feel the supporting arm of a son and nephew to lean on. Our deepest sympathy goes out to them, also to the sister who is the last one of a large family and will miss the close companionship of a dear one who has been a constant companion for so many years.

Mrs. Wescott was a member of the Universalist Church of Dexter and the funeral services were conducted by the Rev. Harry Westbrook Reed of Watertown. She had also been an active member in the Chestnut Ridge Sunday school, always having a class there and holding the office of treasurer, and of the O.E.S. of Sacket's Harbor.

Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Ingram and daughter Laura arrived Sunday morning from Washington, D. C. to attend the funeral, which was held from the home Tuesday. Mrs. Wescott is also survived by the following nephews: Frank Wescott, Wilton, Neal and Thair Murphy of Watertown; one niece, Mrs. Bessie Marshall of Stone street, Watertown; and several grandnephews.

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Transcribed on 17 Feb 2008 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY