

[Wiles, Bessie]

Miss Bessie L. Wiles

The death of Miss Bessie L. Wiles, formerly of this village, a cousin of Mrs. J. Harry Cook of Cooperstown, occurred Saturday morning at her home at No. 200½ Waverly avenue, Syracuse.

Miss Wiles was a native of Van Hornesville, the daughter of Mrs. Ida M. Wiles and the late Milton Wiles. She was private secretary to Chancellor William P. Graham of Syracuse University and served in that capacity for former Chancellors James R. Day and Charles Wesley Flint. During her residence in Cooperstown she was private secretary to the late Judge Lynn J. Arnold. She was a member of the Betts Memorial Universalist church in Syracuse.

Surviving are her mother, Mrs. Ida M. Wiles; two sisters, Mrs. Claude Bierman of St. Johnsville and Mrs. C.C. Shults of Ossining, and by one brother, Attorney Ben Wiles of Syracuse.

Funeral services were held Tuesday morning at 11 o'clock at the funeral chapel of Fairchild & Meech, Syracuse, the Rev. L. [E: Ellsworth] C. Reamon officiating. Burial was made at Van Hornesville.

The following editorial appreciation of Miss Wiles appeared Tuesday in the Syracuse Post-Standard:

"A few paragraphs in the Sunday papers and a five-line in yesterday's Syracuse University daily told of the passing of Miss Bessie L. Wiles, private secretary to Chancellor William P. Graham since 1921 and before that secretary to Chancellor Day and Acting Vice-Chancellor Peck. We would be remiss indeed to permit her death to go almost unnoticed in the flood of commencement news, for Miss Wiles had become virtually a Syracuse University tradition.

"Many generations of students came to know her as a kindly, efficient and understanding friend as they took their personal problems and petitions to Dr. Graham's office during the years he was vice-chancellor. When he succeeded to the chancellorship, Miss Wiles moved upstairs in the administration building with him and served until she was stricken ill last fall.

"She possessed a wealth of information concerning the institution for which she worked. Her capable and discreet handling of the endless details of her position won her the respect and admiration of the faculty and student leaders who came to her for assistance. For years she had recorded the minutes of the meetings of university trustees and knew probably more than anyone else on the campus concerning the rulings and deliberations of that body.

"We know that when Chancellor Graham and his associates gather this morning to pay final tribute to her, their sorrow will be very real. Bessie Wiles will be sorely missed on the hill."

*Otsego Farmer*, Cooperstown NY, Fri. 12 Jun 1942