

[Young, Josephine Edmonds]

MANY MOURN DEATH OF MRS. OWEN D. YOUNG
Wife of Distinguished St. Lawrence Alumnus
Funeral Services Held In Her Memory at VanHornesville
Where Burial Takes Place

A great sorrow came to the peaceful valley of the Otsquago last week. To the humble hamlet of VanHornesville on its banks Owen D. Young and his children returned on a mission of sadness: to bring there for eternal rest the one most dear to them; that woman whose gracious charm and warm heart had so endeared her to the folks of that quiet neighborhood.

There on Thursday, funeral services were held for Josephine Edwards [Edmonds] Young, the wife and mother. From the boyhood home of Owen Young the family went to the plain little white Universalist church across the road, where for many years the Youngs have worshipped. From the Church of the Divine Paternity in New York had come their city pastor Dr. Frank Oliver Hall, to speak sympathetic words of tribute. From Canton had come that dear friend, Dr. Richard Eddy Sykes, to offer fervent prayer. From the simple ceremony all went to the village cemetery on the great hill directly back of the Young home. Giant pines stand sentinel nearby. A vast panorama of hills stretch away to the horizon. There, where seven generations of Youngs lie buried, man and Nature have created in harmony a place of choice beauty. Beside the grave of the son, John, whose death occurred so tragically in 1922 the mother, Josephine Edwards [Edmonds] Young, was laid to rest.

The memory of this woman will enrich many lives. Canton people remember when the girl, Josephine Edmonds, entered St. Lawrence University in the class of 1895. Like Owen Young she had come to the college because of the great work which Dr. A. B. Hervey was doing as President. She was a Massachusetts girl. Her parents, Charles Sidney and Alma Josephine Edmonds, lived at Southbridge, where she was born on April 20, 1870. It was not a common thing for students to come to St. Lawrence from so great a distance in those days, but Dr. Hervey was leading St. Lawrence into an epoch of expansion and with her fellow students "Jo" Edmonds played her part in that epoch.

Those were happy joyous college days: informal dances between classes in the old chapel in Richardson Hall; up-river parties; pleasant associations. With others of her class she joined the Kappas. In the class ahead of her was the "boy from VanHornesville" with whom a close friendship was formed.

It was with regret that her teachers learned at the end of her junior year that Miss Edmonds was transferred to Radcliffe College, Boston, for to them she had been a delight as a fine scholar. No doubt the fact that Owen Young

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had entered the law school of Boston University had something to do with her decision.

[On] June 30, 1898, two years after Mr. Young had graduated from law and when he was an instructor in the law school as well as beginning practice in the office of the late Charles H. Tyler, of Boston, she and he were married at Southbridge. From there until 1912 when Mr. Young became general counsel for the General Electric, they resided in Cambridge.

The years of Mr. Young's ascendancy into world affairs came, but though he and Mrs. Young came "to walk with kings," as Kipling says, they "never lost the common touch." For them their home was a refuge from the demands of public life. There they found their greatest joy and contentment with their children. Their interests were mutual. With her husband Mrs. Young found pleasure in the things he enjoyed: the study of education and philosophy; the pleasure of assembling first editions and original manuscripts and purposefully perusing them. On the Long Island Sound shore at Riverside, they bought a beautiful summer place, once the estate of Lincoln Stephens, the writer, but it was to VanHornesville they returned more and more frequently, for this quiet hamlet was home to them.

In the recent great epoch of expansion at St. Lawrence University, in which Mr. Young played so important a part his wife shared with him his visions and [?] with him in their accomplishment. On the campus stands the choice Grecian temple of the Beta fraternity erected by them and Mrs. [V?] P. Abbott of Gouverneur, in memory of their departed ones. As a trustee of Radcliff, and a member of the committee of babies' wards in New York's Post Graduate Hospital, Mrs. Young found opportunity to do much good.

She was the understanding, sympathetic wife and counselor helping to smooth over the rough spots of life, and lighten the burden of the man to whom peoples of all nations have turned to for help and advice. In 1924 she accompanied him to the Reparations conference in Paris, the silent partner as always, ever ready to share the anxieties and responsibilities which were his in those and other momentous days.

To Mr. Young and the four surviving children and members of the family, the many Northern New York and St. Lawrence friends extend their heartfelt condolences.

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Transcribed on 5 Dec 2009 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY