

Mrs. Purinton, Pioneer of Cooperstown, Died Early Last Thursday

Mrs. Sarah A. Purinton is no more of this world. Death came to this fine lady and Cooperstown pioneer at about seven o'clock last Thursday morning, May 31st, at her home in this city, following an illness of only two days. Pneumonia was the cause of death, but death came even before many residents were aware of her illness.

To say that the death of Mrs. Purinton struck a deep note of sorrow in the community is to express in only a mild way the great and lasting esteem in which she was held after years of residence here, that residence dating back to 1885. Her interest in the life of the community and the lives of its people had been repeatedly manifested, and as a result of her interest has been the winning of the warm and lasting friendship of all who knew her, no matter how long or short lived acquaintance might have been.

On the Monday preceding her death Mrs. Purinton was about among her friends and as active as she had been in all her years. During the day she contracted a cold which quickly developed into the serious illness which removed her from this life. On Wednesday friends notified her son, Russell, who was at Great Falls, Mont., of his mother's illness and advised his coming home at once. But death came before the only surviving member of the Purinton family reached here, Russell arriving Thursday evening.

The funeral was held Saturday afternoon with a prayer at the home and services in the old Baptist church, which church was built here through the untiring efforts of Mrs. Purinton and her husband, who was the first pastor of the congregation they organized. Here Rev. McKinnon, Baptist minister of Page, who was at one time pastor of the congregation here, paid tribute to the life of the departed one before friends whose number taxed the capacity of the edifice and amidst a mountain of floral offerings. Burial was made in the Cooperstown cemetery, the remains being laid to rest beside those of the husband and daughter who had preceded her in death.

The demise of Mrs. Purinton leaves a very real void in this community. Her interest in others, her happy visits with friends, her hospitality, all this is not longer to be enjoyed, but memory of her kindness and her life in general among us is certain to linger forever with those who knew her. Here was a life of great usefulness—a life that leaves its mark in this world.

The Sentinel-Courier is indebted to one who has enjoyed years of acquaintance with Mrs. Purinton in this community for the following obituary and tribute to the departed one:

"On the morning of May 31, 1923, there passed from this life Mrs. Sarah A. Purinton, whose residence in Cooperstown has been continuous since 1885.

"She was born in England in 1850, coming to America with her father and two small sisters in 1854. Being a widower and finding it hard to find a new country to give his little daughters proper home and care, her father consented, when Sarah was twelve years of age, to her adoption by Reuben Russell and Mariette, his wife. It was with the Russells in the beautiful city of Cortland, N. Y., that Mrs. Purinton passed the years of girlhood and young womanhood, and was there married to Oscar D. Purinton on May 13th, 1868.

"Two children were born to this union, Russell and Cora A. The former lives at Helena, Montana, but the latter died in this city in 1891. Mrs. Purinton has one surviving sister, Mrs. Lottie Cole, living at Enid, Oklahoma.

"Mr. and Mrs. Purinton were early pioneers in this state, coming to Tower City in 1881, going from there to Page in 1882, where Mr. Purinton was pastor of the Baptist church, and coming here in 1885, where Mr. Purinton and his wife organized the Baptist society here and resided in the building of the church. They sought and secured

aid for the building among their friends in the east and gave of their own time and means unstintingly. Mr. Purinton even shingling part of the steeple with his own hands when it was found difficult to procure carpenters for the task.

"It is on these early days in the community and in the lives of these dear friends here that the memories of many of us love to dwell. The Purinton home was a noted place in the community then. Mr. Purinton's pastoral work took him out in the surrounding country, frequently far beyond the limits of territory tributary to Cooperstown, and acquaintances and friends thus made were always welcome in the pastoral home here in town.

"And what a home indeed it was! The writer of these lines, himself a northern boy, spent six precious winters there while attending school in town and can speak from the fondest memories of his experience there. There was the dear foster-mother, Mrs. Russell, spending her declining years and finally going down to a painful and lingering death under the loving care of that daughter who knew no other mother.

There was the loving husband and wife, so eager each to help and save the other, and so kindly and hospitable to "the stranger within their gates," and then the two children who from their earliest years were made companions and confidants in all of the business of the day. There was cleanliness with comfort, refinement with ease of manner, guidance with love, and deep piety with charity. There were pictures and books and harmless games, and study for the more serious moments. There were the father and mother, ever ready with their kindly words of faith to uphold their ideals and with them cheery laughs to brush aside the discouragements of life.

"In sickness, and there was much of it at times in the home, the subject of these lines seemed sustained by a strength not her own. Her daughter, her foster mother, and the husband all passed through the valley of the shadow after weeks of illness, when she never failed them a moment in her loving care. In her own case, the illness was of but a few hours, and she met it courageously, wishing to be as little trouble as possible to others.

"It is as wife and mother and mistress of a Christian home that the subject of these lines shall be exalted. How faithfully she carried on until the end, making a home for her loved ones while they could be with her and then sharing her gracious home with others. How estimable and altogether lovely has been her life and service. Let those proclaim who have been privileged to live in her home or who have been welcomed there so often as in the old pastoral days.

"She has passed on to her reward, but the world and especially the community, has been much better and richer for her living in it."—Sentinel-Courier.

RURAL SCHOOL GRADUATION

Mathilda L. Johnson, county superintendent of schools, announces that the commencement exercises for the rural eighth grade graduates is to be held on Monday, June 11th, at 4:15, in the gymnasium at Cooperstown. The school officer's meeting will be held on the same day (June 11) beginning at 9:30 in the morning and continuing through the day. Bertha R. Palmer, Assistant State Superintendent, and A. C. Berg, Rural School Inspector, are to have charge of the meeting. Everybody interested in education is cordially invited to attend. Miss Palmer and Mr. Berg, both enthusiastic educators of this state, will discuss plans and methods for the improvement and general care of schools, school laws and education in general in a way which will be of interest not only to school officers but to all persons interested in the education of our boys and girls. Eighty-six graduates will receive their diplomas.

The program follows:
Solo, "In the Garden of My Heart"..... Myrtle Anderson
Invocation Rev. Dale Crites
Duet, "Come, Merry Birds of Spring", Ella and Erna Youngbeck
Address and Presentation of Diplomas, Bertha R. Palmer
Solo Osgood Westley
Benediction.