

Madison, of which she was always a faithful and enthusiastic member. At the time of her death she was one of the vice-presidents of the Woman's Presbyterian Board of Missions of the Northwest. She was interested in all good causes, was an officer in the temperance organization of early days in Madison, was also one of the ladies of the town who established the Woman's Exchange and was an officer in it.

Mrs. Sterling passed away on July 11, 1900, having just passed her 76th birthday. Her happy, cheery disposition showed itself to the last. She was most patient and serene during the year and a half of invalidism induced by a stroke of paralysis that preceded her death.

Almost her last words were: "I am so thankful."

Written by her daughter, Miss Susan A. Sterling.

FRANCES CONKEY FETHERS, 1847-1917

Author—Julia L. Lovejoy

Frances Ella Conkey was born in Antwerp, New York, where she lived until the family moved to Canton in 1865.

She was descended from Elder Wm. Brewster who came over in the Mayflower, and was ruling elder in the church of Plymouth Colony.

Her revolutionary ancestor was Jonas Conkey, who served as private several months in 1775 and as Sergant in 1777 when his regiment marched to reinforce General Gates, commander of the northern army.

Her father, Jonas S. Conkey was a beloved physician of Antwerp and Canton. Her mother, Mary Frances Paige Conkey, was a gentle and cultured woman.

Mrs. Fethers attended a young ladies' school at Claverack, New York, until she graduated. There she studied music and later she pursued her musical studies in New York City.

She married Ogden Hoffman Fethers in 1868. Their first home was in Jefferson City, Mo., where their first child, Ella Clark Fethers was born in 1869. They moved to St. Louis, Mo., where this child died in 1871.

They returned to Canton. Here a second daughter, Laura May, was born in 1872. She died in 1877.

The loss of these children was a life long sorrow to Mrs. Fethers. She was essentially a motherly woman and her heart went out to all young people with sympathetic understanding.

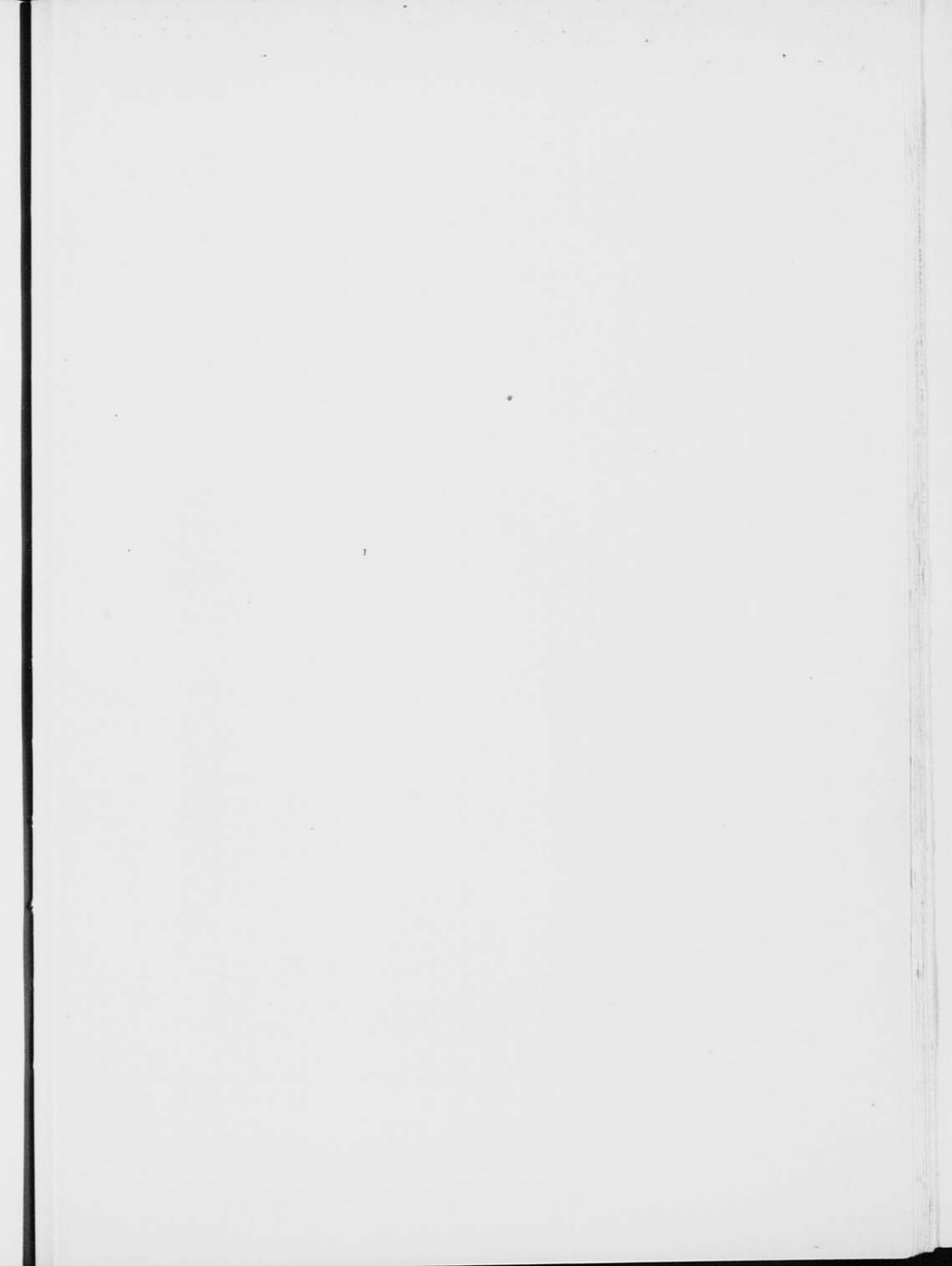
Mr. and Mrs. Fethers came to Janesville in 1878 and he engaged in the practice of law. They soon became leaders in the intellectual and social life of the city.

Mrs. Fethers was a valued woman of the Women's History Club, one of the oldest Women's Clubs in the state.

She joined the Janesville Chapter D. A. R. in 1898 and was soon recognized as a woman of broad vision and great executive capacity. She was chosen Chapter Regent in 1901 and served the two terms allowed by their by-laws. Under her efficient and genial leadership the chapter increased rapidly in numbers and influence. Elected State Regent in Oct., 1906, she presided over the State Conferences of 1907-1908 and 1909-1910 with dignity, courtesy and ability. New Chapters were formed in the state and old ones grew in numbers and strength. While State Regent she wrote our beautiful state song, The Star of Wisconsin, composing both the words and the melody.

She gave time, strength and money generously to the work of the D. A. R. and in acknowledgment of her valuable services was made Honary State Regent in 1911. She was several times a delegate to the National Congress of D. A. R. where her tact, kindness and good judgment were generally recognized.

After the death of Mr. Fethers in 1911 she tried to keep on in the Janesville home, but late in the year she





*MRS. CHARLES CATLIN
In a "period" gown worn at a costume party.
Benj. Tallmadge*

moved to her girlhood home in Canton, N. Y., and occupied the charming old house which had been her father's.

Her interest in the D. A. R. continued until she passed away in 1917.

Besides being a Daughter of the American Revolution, Mrs. Fethers was a member of the Mayflower Society and of the Colonial Dames of America. She was interested in every sort of patriotic work.

As member of the Board of Directors of the Janesville Public Library, she was instrumental in securing the Carnegie donation which largely paid for the present Library building. She encouraged whatever would elevate and Americanize our people.

Her influence was always beneficent and inspiring and her passing brought a great sense of loss, not only to devoted relatives and friends, but to many others who knew and admired her beautiful character and loving and unselfish life.

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LAURA ALMIRA WOOD CATLIN
(Mrs. Charles)
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The subject of this sketch was born June 25, 1841, at Rouse's Point, New York, the daughter of Benjamin F. and Mary Hammond Wood.

Shortly after their marriage to Mr. Charles Catlin of Hartford Connecticut, she and her husband removed to Milwaukee, which became their permanent home. They at once entered into the activities of St. Paul's Episcopal church and Sunday School.

Upon learning of a number of Protestant families living in a poor section of the city, with no Protestant church convenient, Mr. and Mrs. Catlin instituted Sunday afternoon services there, their musical talents of high order