

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.

LAURA ALMIRA WOOD CATLIN
(Mrs. Charles)

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

adding greatly to the interest of the meetings. This work, started in a small way, developed into a regularly constituted mission of St. Paul's church. After a few years, the neighborhood changing materially thru the large influx of foreign-born residents, there was a general exodus of the parishioners to another section of the city. An ample church edifice was erected where a large congregation worships. The Catlin Memorial Parish House of the new Mission, built by Mr. Catlin as a memorial to his wife, is the social center of that community, being equipped for all kinds of indoor social activities of old and young.

Mrs. Catlin's financial and personal participation in most of the noteworthy charitable and other enterprises of Milwaukee made her very name such a power, that her indorsement and support of any new undertaking was equivalent to a guarantee of success. Perhaps the most outstanding instance is the Milwaukee Children's Free Hospital. She, with six other inspired women founded this wonderful institution many years ago, with seven beds in a rented cottage. Today, the Hospital is installed in a magnificent modern, fully equipped building of their own with a capacity of 250 beds. The greater part of this development was under Mrs. Catlin as President, which office she held until the last years of her life.

Vying with the Mission and the Hospital in Mrs. Catlin's affections, was the Milwaukee Home of the Friendless; and those whom this institution helped on their way. Being childless themselves, the combined fortunes of Mr. and Mrs. Catlin were bequeathed to these three splendid institutions, with the exceptions of a few minor bequests.

One outcome of the meeting of the Federation of Women's Clubs in Milwaukee, 1900, was the Outdoor Association, with Mrs. Catlin as president. The children's garden work started by this society has become a public activity. Her love for children was further manifested in the establishment by this organization of the first playground in Milwaukee, in the neighborhood

of St. Paul's Mission. The Association maintained this playground until it was taken over by the city—the nucleus of the present extensive system of playgrounds in Milwaukee.

This Association also turned its attention to the improvement of the Milwaukee river front. Some notable and very noticeable improvements resulted. These led to comprehensive civic plans, which may not materialize for many years; but in view of them, individual planning seemed inadvisable. Public interests having taken over the various lines of civic work started by this society, it ended its career by presenting a silver loving cup to the most artistically decorated building on the river front at the time of the Perry Centennial celebration in 1913. The tour of inspection up the river by the judges on that occasion was made aboard Perry's own historic flagship—the "Niagara".

In the early days of the National Society, United States Daughters of 1812, Mrs. Catlin was appointed State President for Wisconsin by the National President of the Society. From the half dozen members, all residents of Milwaukee, at the time of her appointment, the membership increased until it became state-wide under Mrs. Catlin's leadership. She not only retained the Presidency until her death but was made National Vice President. The silver loving cup was given her by her devoted "Daughters" of Wisconsin, rests in the Milwaukee Public Museum. She was also Charter Member of Colonial Dames, D. A. R., and other patriotic societies.

The broad culture of Mr. and Mrs. Catlin—evidenced by one of the largest private libraries in Milwaukee, was enhanced by extensive travel in this country and abroad, including two trips around the world, of two years' duration each. The varied and valuable collection of interesting objects thus accumulated was bequeathed to the Milwaukee Public Museum and now enriches the exhibits housed there.

The charming old homestead of late colonial design, built by Mrs. Catlin's grandfather, Dr. James Wilson

Wood on the shores of lovely Lake Champlain in which Mrs. Catlin was born, has never passed out of the family. It came into Mrs. Catlin's possession who bequeathed it to a near relative. She brought much of its beautiful furnishings to her western home. Among these treasures was her grandfathers secretary which contained still greater treasures—his journal of his experiences in the war of 1812; and the invaluable journal letters of his brother, Colonel Eleazar Wood of the regular army, who lost his life in that war. But for the success of Col. Wood's work in Ohio, Perry's victory would have counted for naught. Lossing's history, the standard work on the war of 1812, relies solely on Col. Wood's journal for the events covered by that extensive document. Realizing the value of these private papers to the science of history, Mrs. Catlin arranged for their placement in the Historical Library at Madison, where they now are, the property of the State.

Intense love for humanity, such as Mrs. Catlin's, always bespeaks the soul of a poet. Hers found expression, occasionally, in charming verse. Modesty forbade her seeking publication; but in 1909 Mr. Catlin had a small volume of them printed for private distribution among her friends. Would that space permitted giving some of them here.

During the winter of 1913-1914, Mrs. Catlin was stricken with pneumonia. Because of her advanced age, it was feared that she could not recover. But her friends were overjoyed in the early spring to learn of her convalescence. It was Easter time. On that Easter morning, greenhouses and florists' shops were stripped and Mrs. Catlin's home was fairly deluged with flowers. All great souls are simple. To her who never considered she merited so much as a single blossom, this outpouring of love from people in all walks of life was so overpowering it almost caused a relapse. The occasion seemed an echo of her own lines written years before:

"Roses that blush for shame on Easter Morn
At thought of cruel cross and crown of thorn,
Send forth your sweetest incense; let it rise
To Him who ope'd the gates of Paradise.

Pansies, who bid us never more forget
The stone, to seal the Roman guard well set,
Cry out to all with fragrance laden breath,
'Where is thy sting, O grave, thy victory O death?'

Wave thy pure banners heavenward, lillies white;
Bright with thhe pearly tears of sorrowing night
The morning breaks; to all good the news speeds—
"The Lord beloved is risen; yea, risen indeed."

Oh, Christ, who died our sin sick souls to save
E'en through the shadowy portals of the grave,
O'er thorns and stones I'll follow Thee, dear Lord,
So I but rise with Thee—the Truth, the Life, the Word."

Mrs. Catlin rose from that sick bed for a short period of further usefulness; but a second illness two years later, provd fatal and she passed away, February fourth, 1915. But Laura Wood Catlin will live forever in her noble works rendered permanent thru her inspired love for humanity and the beautiful.

(Mrs. Henry L.) Minnie G. Cook, Regent,
Benjamin Tallmadge Chapter,
Milwaukee.

MRS. HELEN WHIPPLE
Author—Lillian Stair Schreiner
(Fort Atkinson Chapter)

The Fort Atkinson Chapter, D. A. R. has been fortunate in adding to its list of "real" daughters, Mrs. Helen M. Whipple of Chicago. She was the daughter of Eliada Brown, who served throughout the Revolutionary war, enlisted at the early age of 15.

Mrs. Whipple was at the time she joined, an exceedingly bright and attractive old lady, past her 80th year. Her early life was passed in Jefferson county,