

MRS. CHAUNCEY KEELER
Author—Antoinette Cowles Kent
Beloit

Katherine Spaulding was the daughter of Ira Spaulding and Eliza Jane Atwood. She was born December 3, 1837, in Merrimac, New Hampshire. She received her early education both in Merrimac and Nashua. Later she attended Normal school at Reed's Ferry and Francistown Academy. She was accomplished in music also.

She married in Merrimac to Chauncey C. Keeler and shortly thereafter came to Beloit, Wisconsin. She has resided in this city continuously since her marriage, with the exception of six years spent in Janesville.

Mrs. Keeler is a daughter of the Mayflower descendant of Richard Warren. Roger Conant, Governor of Massachusetts Bay was also an ancestor.

It was the pleasure of Mr. Keeler to be one of the committee to welcome Abraham Lincoln when he made his famous speech in Civil War times.

Her only son, who resides in Rockford is Edwin H. Keeler. Mrs. Keeler is the proud grandmother of one grandson and two granddaughters, children of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin H. Keeler. Our subject also has two great-grandchildren, who are grandsons of the above son and daughter-in-law. Her grandson-in-law was of the medical corps but was not permitted to go overseas. Her grandson was first lieutenant and was named for Capt-aincy.

During the Civil War, Mrs. Keeler was very active in the relief work that was necessary for the soldiers, together with other duties that this noble band of women performed. This included Susan Maria Brown Ross and Mrs. Bushnell. Those were busy days and these ladies were leaders in gifts of time and money.

Mrs. Keeler joined the Beloit Chapter D. A. R. December 6, 1897. She is now 85 years of age, our oldest surviving member. Until the infirmities of her age pressed upon her, she was active in Church and social affairs. She is a liberal dispenser of bounty.

She is passing the days of her declining years in her beautiful home, tenderly cared for. Her husband has passed on before.

ABIGAIL AUSTIN DOTY
Author—Mrs. Charles Fifield
Janesville

Abigail Austin Doty was one of the pioneer women of Rock County, Wisconsin.

Abigail Austin, daughter of Ira and Permelia Austin, was born at Lee Corners, Ontario County, New York, September 6, 1832. Later the family moved to the town of Canadaigua.

Mrs. Austin died in 1843, leaving Abigail, aged 11, and another daughter, Ann Eliza, aged nine years. A Captain and Mrs. Pratt of the same town, having decided to locate in the West, persuaded Mr. Austin to take his two little girls and to move westward also. They started overland in a covered wagon, stopping at taverns at night and after several weeks of tedious travel, finally reached Janesville, in the Fall of 1843. Their household goods were shipped by boat from Buffalo to Chicago. Mr. Austin and his daughters decided to remain in Janesville, but Captain and Mrs. Pratt continued their journey and located at Whitewater, Wisconsin.