

Olympic Leader

April 23, 1915

Mrs. Kezia Johnson Kemp

[d. 19 Apr 1915]

Aged Lady Passed Away Monday Morning at Home of Her Son-in-law, Rev. Stephen Smith

Mrs. Kezia Johnson Kemp passed away at the home of her son-in-law, Rev. Stephen Smith, Monday morning, the 19th, at 3:25.

Mrs. Kemp was born in Lincoln, Maine, in 1831, but the family soon moved to Jackson in the same state, where the most of her girlhood was spent. Her father was an educated man, a teacher, and under his tuition, in the public schools and at "Foxcraft Academy," she obtained excellent education. Naturally of intellectual taste, her education was supplemented by wide reading. Before her marriage she taught at Vernon, Conn.

At the age of twenty she married Rev. Geo. S. Kemp and devotedly shared his labors in his pastorates in Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Vermont. After about 30 years of active service in the ministry, owing to a throat affection, her husband was obliged to give up his preaching and they bought a home in East Douglas, Mass.

After the marriage of their daughter, Rev. and Mrs. Kemp spent most of their time in her home. Mr. Kemp's death occurred in 1900 in Lebanon, Conn.

Mrs. Kemp was one of the finest types of New England womanhood, a daughter of the Revolution and a Puritan by birth and training. She possessed in a marked degree those qualities of heart and mind which characterize the women of those states. She had been richly endowed by nature, of charming personality, gracious manner, a loving heart and joyful spirit. She radiated sunshine wherever she went and endeared herself to all with whom she came in contact, but more than all these, the secret of her influence and the mainspring of her life was her faith and love for her Lord and Master. She was

a Christian of entire consecration, and her life was a living testimony to the truth that is in Christ Jesus.

Her illness was brief, her death being caused by acute bronchitis. Her last moments were beautiful and peaceful with only intervals of unconsciousness. She knew her loved ones up to almost the last moment and fragments of lovely thoughts occasionally fell from her lips.

In the passing of this rare spirit, earth has been made the poorer and heaven has been made the richer.

She leaves besides her daughter, and son-in-law, Rev. and Mrs. Stephen Smith of this city, and two children Stephen Kemp and Ruth Kezia, a son and wife Mr. and Mrs. Charles Edwin Kemp of St. Petersburg, Florida, and two grandsons, Dr. E. Carl Kemp, American Consul to France, and H. Stuart Kemp, a student at the Carnegie School of Technology in Pittsburg, Penn., and also three brothers and sisters.

Very beautiful and impressive funeral services were held at the home at one o'clock Thursday afternoon, conducted by Rev. Robert S. Osgood of the Prospect Congregational church Seattle. His scriptural readings as well as his remarks, were full of comfort and cheer. He tried to show how death lost its sting when one had lived such a beautiful Christian life as that of Mrs. Kemp. She was victorious over all things even unto death. He said he considered it a great privilege and honor to have been asked to perform these last rites over a woman who represented as she did, all that was highest, purest and best in life.

The hymns were particularly beautiful as rendered by a choir consisting of Mrs. Luppen, Mrs. Brown, Messrs. MacNutt and Webber.

The first one, "Gathering Home," had been sung at Mrs. Kemp's husband's funeral and she had once expressed a desire that it also be sung at hers.

Crossing each other on the top of the casket, two branches of the Victory Palm had been tenderly laid by Mrs. Smith, symbolizing her mother's victory over death. The body was laid to rest for the present in Ocean View Cemetery, to later be removed beside the body of her husband in Connecticut.

Sweet as the perfume of the beautiful flowers that surround her casket, is the memory of the life of this noble self-sacrificing mother and friend.

Mr. C. P. Johnson and daughter Miss Marlon and son Cyrus of Seattle were in attendance at the funeral.