

GERTRUDE SANDERSON

Obituary.

Funeral services for Miss Gertrude Fletcher Sanderson, artist, author and lecturer, who died April 6 at the Sanderson homestead in Littleton, were held in the Orthodox Congregational church at Littleton on Saturday, April 10, Rev. Edward Reighard, minister of the church, officiating. At 2 o'clock, Mrs. Peter Perry, organist, and Miss Mildred Precious, violinist, rendered a choice program of appropriate classical music for a half hour. The pastor opened the service with comforting passages of scripture and prayer. Then followed a group of hymns, all favorites of Miss Sanderson, given by the violinist; "O Love, That Wilt Not Let Me Go," "I Heard a Sound of Voices," "Hark! Hark My Soul," and O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee." After the hymns, Mr. Reighard paid Miss Sanderson a high tribute of esteem, recalling her many contributions to society generally and to her native town. The service concluded with the high note of victory in the Easter hymn, "Alleluia! Alleluia!"

Burial was in Westlawn cemetery, Littleton. Pall bearers, nephews and nephews-in-law of Miss Sanderson, were Burton Sanderson Flagg of Andover; Webster Sanderson Blanchard, of West Acton; Bennett Sanderson, of Littleton; Dr. Robert Sanderson, of Dedham; Heyward Sanderson Houghton of Arlington; Charles K. Houghton of Littleton; Henry L. Brown of Ayer; and Julian Lovejoy of Manchester, N. H.

Miss Sanderson was born in Littleton, April 2, 1872, a daughter of the late George Webster Sanderson and Charlotte Elizabeth Tuttle Sanderson of Littleton. She was a graduate of the Boston Normal Art school and had studied at Julian Academy of Art in Paris. She also studied under private masters in Europe where she spent much time traveling and painting in water colors and oils as well as learning the art of etching. Primarily she was an artist and her paintings have been on exhibition in Philadelphia, New York and frequently in Boston. Littleton and her environs have been immortalized in color by her brush.

She often said that Littleton offered a sufficient palette for a lifetime and yet many of her paintings are interpretations of foreign landscapes and architecture. She designed the Littleton town seal and a stained glass window for the Littleton church in memory of her grandmother, Asenath Sanderson.

In the lecture field her subjects were closely related to her profession. Among these were: Millet and the Barbizon Painters; Venice and her Art Treasures; Three Strong Types of Renaissance Painters. Christ Life in Art; With Pen and Brush, illustrated with paintings of home lands, foreign lands and original poems; New England in Color.

Miss Sanderson was the author of many poems, showing a rare understanding of child life and a love of nature in all her moods. Some of these were published in Paris and others have been set to music.

She held membership in the Professional Women's club of Boston; the Boston branch of the National League of American Pen Women; the Copley society and the Boston Manuscript club. She was a charter member of the Woman's club of Littleton and a member of the Orthodox Congregational church of her native town; a member of the Art department of the Massachusetts State Federation of Women's clubs for many years, and also a trustee of the Lowthorpe School of Landscape Architecture, of Groton, Mass.

She was a sister of Miss Fannie Adams Sanderson, and Mrs. Josiah P. Thacher of Littleton; the late George Augustus Sanderson, justice of the Supreme Court of Massachusetts; the late Mrs. Charles F. Flagg of Littleton; and the late Mrs. Arthur F. Blanchard of West Acton.