

PONTIAC BILL POSTER

July 30 Death of Mrs. Gelston. 1884

Although Mrs. Maltby Gelston had been nearly helpless under a stroke of paralysis since early last November, the news that she had passed away July 19, at 12:15 in the morning, came with peculiar suddenness to a sorrowing circle of relatives and friends. This was her second or third stroke, and but little hope had been entertained of her ultimate recovery. It was a comfort to know, however, that her last hours were clouded by very little pain of any sort. The funeral was held at the house Monday afternoon and was largely attended. In the absence of her pastor, Dr. Steele, Rev. Dr. Ryder, of the Congregational church, conducted the services.

Mrs. Marcia Harriet Gelston (nee Merwin) was born on Candlewood Mount, near New Milford, Conn., on the 8th of Sept. and was, therefore, at the time of her demise nearly 77 years old. Her father was a farmer and a deacon in the Congregational church for many years. She united with the church in her early youth, and has ever since been a humble but tireless worker in religious fields. Her deeds of charity, though unheralded, were numerous—to which fact many a poor family, here and elsewhere, could bear testimony. She came to Ann Arbor more than 21 years ago with her family. In abolition days her house was an important station on the "Underground Railroad" which was kept busy in transporting fugitive slaves to Canada. Mrs. Gelston has been the mother of eight children, four of whom survive her: J. Mills Gelston is a minister at Pontiac; Henry W. Gelston is a minister at Northfield; Mrs. Antoinette B. Harvey and Miss Sarah Gelston are of this city.

Just before the singing of the last hymn in Sabbath school, July 20, 1884, the Superintendent announced the death of Mrs. Gelston, and in a few minutes after, the following testimonial was read and adopted by the school:

"The Presbyterian Sabbath School of South Lyon, having just received the sad intelligence that Mrs. Gelston, wife of our former beloved pastor, had departed this life yesterday morning, desire herewith to convey to Rev. Maltby Gelston the assurance of our affectionate sympathy in his sore affliction, praying with and for him that he may enjoy the consolation and sustaining grace of the same loving Saviour, to whom he has so often directed us and others in like times of bereavement and sorrow."

FANNY SPRAGUE, C. E. WALTON,
Secretary. Superintendent.

July 30 1884
Gazette of July 25th: "Emanuel Newman, an aged and highly respected citizen and a pioneer of the county, died at his late residence, on Saginaw street, last Sunday morning at seven o'clock, in the 79th year of his age. The deceased was a native of New Jersey and emigrated to Michigan when 28 years old, settling in the village of Birmingham, where for a time he followed the avocation of carpenter and joiner. He afterwards purchased a farm in West Bloomfield, in which pursuit he proved very successful, and which he followed to within a few years ago, when, on account of feeble health, he relinquished it and came into this city to live, purchasing the Curtis residence (so called) on Saginaw street where he died. The deceased was widely known as a successful farmer, a kind husband and father, generous hearted and of sterling integrity. He leaves his family in comfortable circumstances, his married son and daughters all well settled upon farms he had been enabled to procure for them through a life of toil, rigid economy and untiring industry. A widow and six children, and a large number of neighbors and friends, deeply mourn his loss. The funeral took place at the house on Wednesday afternoon, at 2 o'clock, Rev. J. M. Gelston officiating.