

MARY SMART STEAD TOWNSEND

Waukesha Freeman, Thursday, May 11, 1911 | Page 2

On Monday May 1st at 11 p.m. Mrs. Mary Townsend departed this life after a brief illness.

Mrs. Townsend was a daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth Smart, pioneers of Mukwonago township, and was born in the town of Waukesha where the Smart families first settled. The date of her birth is April 13, 1841. Later the family moved to Mukwonago where Mrs. Townsend grew to womanhood. Her father died many years ago and her aged mother made her home with Mrs. Townsend in her declining years. She was married to Henry Stead about forty-six years ago, in the city of Milwaukee, and this young couple made their home in North Prairie where they engaged in the confectionary business. About twenty-five years ago they came to Eagle to continue in the same business and by fair dealing, energy and enterprise, made a success of the undertaking besides gaining the confidence and respect of all. The father died in October, 1890, and the widowed mother with the help of the family continued the business.

Some years after the death of Mr. Stead she again married and became the wife of William Townsend, son of P.V. and Sarah Townsend, of Eagle. He died in 1896 again leaving her a widow to carry on the battles of life.

The family were very successful here, erected a fine brick structure for business and residence. The eldest daughter married J.D. Silvernail(sic), now rural mail carrier; Arthur purchased a farm near the village and last year was honored with the office of town treasurer; Sylvia married J. A. Sherman, now deceased, and had charge of the business interests; Jay W. recently married Miss Lottie Bigelow, a popular young lady of Eagle, and assisted the family in conducting the store besides being interested in carrying mail and undertaking.

Mrs. Townsend was a member of the M.E. church and the funeral took place yesterday afternoon, Rev. J. W. Perry officiating, assisted by the Eagle choir. Interment was in Oak Ridge cemetery. Out of respect to her memory the business houses closed during the funeral services.

In her death another pioneer has gone to her long repose and well may the youth of today learn from the example set by her and her parents, that of laboring to the interests of home and community with honor that when the end comes it can be truthfully said of them as in the instance, that her life was one of usefulness, a credit to her parents, self and family. We all extend our sincere sympathy to the bereaved family.

Mrs. Townsend leaves besides the immediate family three sisters, Mrs. Ann Simon, Mrs. Sarah Schermerhorn, Mrs. Jennie Bates, Minnesota; two brothers, George and William Smart, Hillsdale, Wis. and grandchildren.