

Linda C. Butturf, (Died 13 Oct 1900), Newport News, Thursday, October 18, 1900

Miss Linda Butturf, aged 15 years, died Saturday evening about 10:30 o'clock, after an illness of six weeks of typhoid fever. Heart failure having become manifest during her last hours hastened her end. She was the only child of **Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Butturf**, and leaves two half sisters, **Miss Mary Fitzgerald** and **Miss Mary Butturf**.

She took sick September 4th, while at school the first day of the term and she subsequently said to friends at her bedside that she had never been so sick before that time. The progress of the disease until the critical period had passed, 21 days afterward, was favorable, and it was only a few days that the symptoms became alarming. Indeed it was until then confidently believed that her recovery was only a matter of time, and when it was said Saturday evening that her death was then imminent, her friends were shocked in a measure only comparable to the blow that befell them all with the announcement Sunday morning that she had died during the night. Her father was ministered to her wants when she said, "Papa, please give me a drink of water, and being raised up to take a drink she fell over in his arms and expired.

Gentle, loving and kind, not quite sixteen years old, with friends almost numberless, a happy home and affectionate parents who provided for her every want, life had just begun to open up to her with the most bright and cheerful prospects. Having been born and reared here, growing up in our midst to a lovely, comely young girl, there were few hearts in the community not saddened by her early death.

She was a member of the B Department of the High School; of the Reformed Church, Heidelberg League, Sunday school and the Girl Cadets. In all her relations of life her gentle, generous nature dispensed with an entire absence of self-consciousness a charm that all will now recall with mingled feelings of joy and sorrow-joy with fond remembrance of her and sorrow of her departure from all earthly scenes so early in life. The comfort only remains that her sweet spirit has entered the realms of the blest in eternity.

The funeral took place Tuesday afternoon. At 2:30 o'clock the burial services of the Reformed Church, were conducted at the house by Rev. Edw. D. Meixell, of Scottsdale, pastor-elect of the Newport Reformed Church, assisted by Rev. William Sorwart, rector of the Church of the Nativity, of this place. Rev. Mr. Meixell preached an impressive sermon from St. John 13:7- "Jesus answered and said unto him, what I do thou knowest not: but thou shalt know hereafter," The comfort offered by the sermon to those who sorrow for their departed loved one was that in the mysterious providences of God blessings are hidden for revelation here or in eternity.

The body which lay in a beautiful white coffin in the parlor surrounded by many beautiful floral tributes from loving friends, schoolmates, the Heidelberg League and the Girl Cadets, was then wrapped in its winding sheet by grief-stricken father, as his last act of love before it was shut out from his sight forever. It was then borne by the pallbearers; **James Irwin, Charles Brandt, Ross McCulloch, Harry Kauffman, Austin Smith** and **Norman Wright** all young friends of **Linda's** to the hearse, which conveyed it to Newport Cemetery for interment in the family burying lot. At the grave the burial services of the Reformed Church were concluded. The flowers, which were so numerous as to require a wagon to hand to the cemetery, were placed on

the grave after it had been filled up.

Prior to the hour of the funeral many persons took a last look at the face and form of her whom all had known so well in life, as she lay in her coffin in the parlor of her late home. The High School was closed from 2:30 to 3:30 o'clock so that the pupils, with Principal J. F. Ferguson, might be present at the funeral services, which they attended in a body. The house was crowded with sympathizing friends during the funeral services and a dense throng occupied the street in front of the house as the cortege started on the way to the cemetery, all manifestly in sympathy with those who had been called upon to surrender their loved one to the inexorable demands of death.

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