

[Phelps, Alice]

Alice Phelps Leaves \$7,000 to Middleport Universalist Church

Middleport Herald says:

The congregation of the Universalist church was very pleasantly surprised last Tuesday night with the announcement that Miss Alice Phelps, of New Berlin, N.Y., who passed away last fall, had bequeathed \$7,000 in cash to the church, and also made the church residuary legatee of the estate. How much more will come to the church will not be known until the estate is settled.

Miss Phelps was a former resident of Middleport, and for many years had been an ardent and active member of the local church. She left here several years ago to keep house for her only brother at New Berlin. He died some time ago, leaving her most of his estate, which is now left with her own for distribution among a large number of beneficiaries, including the Middleport Universalist church, \$5,000 for the Universalist Ministerial pension fund, a substantial sum for the state Universalist convention, and many distant relatives and friends. She had no near relatives. Two of her old friends in Middleport are remembered in her will—Mrs. Jenny Cotton and Mrs. Mary Chase.

Miss Phelps came here from New Berlin with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Phelps, shortly after the Civil War. Her father was a farmer and acquired a large tract of land southeast of Middleport and adjoining the village limits, also village property. Part of the Niagara Sprayer and Chemical company's plant and its experimental orchard is on the old Phelps farm, which consisted mostly of a large orchard in the early days. Mr. Phelps retired from active life here and both he and his wife died many years ago. Miss Phelps, however, maintained her home here until called to New Berlin to keep house for her brother about 10 years ago.

While Miss Phelps has been an active worker in the Universalist church and continued her interest in its welfare although living a long distance from it, she had not intimated to her closest friends that she planned to make it a beneficiary in her will. So the gift came a complete surprise. There is no stipulation as to how it shall be used, that matter being left entirely to the discretion of the church.

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