

Mrs. Washington Gladden

During Dr. Gladden's pastorate, I was for several years a member of the soliciting committee of the Woman's Society, the fore-runner of the present Woman's Guild. At that time all food for church dinners was donated, cooked in the homes and delivered hot to the church. Also in that long ago, the women of the church took much pride in their cooking skill and had their specialties of which we soon learned and took advantage. It is needless to say that owing to these conditions the dinners of the First Congregational Church were famous in the community.

Mrs. Gladden in addition to all her other church duties always came to our committee meetings. She helped us in deciding upon our menus and when we had selected the required number of names from the church directory, her close contact with church families was most helpful. She would often say, "Don't solicit there now — they are in great trouble," or "Leave this family for another time — they are having sickness." We never ceased to wonder at her intimate knowledge of the parish, especially remarkable in those days before telephones and automobiles.

Dignified, yet with a keen sense of humor and a kindly greeting for everyone, Mrs. Gladden helped make our social half hour before dinners a success; always appreciative of the work of

others, kind, considerate, we loved her. In her home she was everything a clever woman could be. Loyal and devoted to her husband whom she addressed as "Wash", there was no sacrifice too great or work too hard if it was making his duties easier.



MRS. WASHINGTON GLADDEN

On December 5, 1860 Dr. Gladden married Miss Jennie Cohoon of Brooklyn, N. Y. a schoolmate at the Owego Academy. Mrs. Gladden died on May 8, 1909.

A devoted mother, we remember her merriment when she told us how, catching a glimpse of her son coming up the walk on an unexpected visit from his home in the East, she had rushed to the hall, opened the door and thrown her arms about and kissed the cabman, her son enjoying it from the rear.

Mrs. Gladden was hospitable and made a charming hostess as everyone who remembers her beautiful reception given just after moving into their own home can testify. As a conscientious housekeeper she was observed on the morning of the day she was leaving for a European trip going to market with a basket on her arm, thus careful not to leave her family with a depleted larder. She

was in every way a worthy companion for a great man and one fully appreciated, honored and loved by him.

In all the memories which are associated with her gifted husband, our Church will never forget Mrs. Gladden's interest and service.

— E. M. M. (MRS. O. A. MILLER)

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Note: The author of the article, Ella M. Miller, and her husband, Orlando A. Miller, had connections to two of the stained-glass windows in our church. Stay tuned for more information about that.