

## Almira G. Stoddard

( - 16 Apr 1839)

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Yesterday morning, after an illness of but four days, Mrs. A.G. Stoddard, late of Gonway, Mass., wife of Mr. O.N. Stoddard, Principal of the Capitol Hill Seminary for Young Ladies in this city.

In the death of this lady, the Institution of which she was the assistant teacher, and the cause of education generally have sustained a loss not easily repaired; but to her husband and immediate friends it is irreparable.

It is but five months since Mrs. Stoddard came to this city and entered upon the duties of the Seminary; and the sincere attachment which had been formed for her by her pupils, and the reputation which the school has attained in so short a time, are evidences that her high moral and intellectual worth were rightly appreciated. Possessing strong natural endowments of mind, improved by a finished education, and impressed deeply with a sense of the responsibility of her station in training up the young "in the way they should go," she had enlisted the warmest feelings of friendship from all who, in her brief residence here, had the happiness of being acquainted with her. The funeral will take place at 4 o'clock p.m. this day, from the boarding house of Mrs. Sprigg, Capitol Hill, to which the friends of the deceased are respectfully invited.

*From Mrs. Constance (Clarke) Myers, March 5, 1997*

Almira Griffeth Clarke, (so named because an earlier child, also named Almira, died at age one year) was the daughter of Ebenezer II and Sally (Griffeth) Clarke, born 28 May 1781 in Conway, Franklin County, Massachusetts. After her father died of injuries from a fall from an apple tree, she took her small inheritance and attended school to become a teacher. She went to Virginia where her fiancée was also engaged in teaching at a private school. They were married 21 Dec 1837 in Bowling Green, VA.

She died in Washington, D.C. from an apparent blocked bowel scarcely 1-1/2 years later at the age of almost 25. There were no children. Her husband, O.N. Stoddard, became a professor of chemistry and natural philosophy at the University of Miami in Ohio.

A very proper and religious young lady, a member of the Congregational Church, yet daring for her day in that she attempted to earn her own living far from home and family, yet was very close to her five brothers and sisters.

A few letters written by her and her husband are still extant and held by this writer.