

# Wife's Death Made 'Andy' Goff Hermit, Says Mother, 84, Found in Springfield

## Mrs. Sarah J. Goff Ends 20 Years Old Mystery of West Pelham Recluse; Left Vermont Home After Bereavement; Has Three Sons and Two Daughters.

A gray-haired woman, enfeebled by her 84 years, yesterday explained a mystery that residents of West Pelham and vicinity have been trying to solve for a score of years.

The woman is Mrs. Sarah J. Goff of Springfield; the mystery, who was "Andy" Goff, West Pelham hermit?

For all his years on the hills the people knew nothing of "Andy," except that he came there one day, established a farm, and ever after lived in seclusion. They wondered who he was and where he came from; who his people were and where they were. Withal the searchings of neighbors, "Andy" refrained from speaking, and only for his mother might have carried his secret away in death, which came to him Wednesday.

Yesterday when the undertaker asked for facts of the hermit, his

mother ended the enigma of the hermit. Andrew Goff, as his family knew him, was born in Richmond, Vt., 63 years ago. Soon after the death of his wife he sought solace from his sorrow in the solitude of the hills, and on Pelham Hill erected a cabin. There he stayed until his death, except for brief trips into communities to buy necessities of life.

On Wednesday "Andy" left his shack high in the hills for a tramp through the mountains he loved. He and his companion, Will Wetherbee, started the return to his home late in the afternoon. "Andy" was tired, too tired to go much further. They reached his cabin. He opened the door, seemed to stumble, and then fell to the floor. Wetherbee looked for "Andy" to get up, then spoke to him. In trying to help the hermit to his feet, Wetherbee found he was dead.

Yesterday the body was taken to Byron's State Street funeral parlors.

Relatives went there and arranged for the funeral. Besides his mother, "Andy" leaves three sons, Raymond of New York, Clarence of Brookfield and Henry Goff of the U. S. Navy; two daughters, Mrs. Jennie Lynch of New York and Mrs. Melba Colcagno of South Warren; four sisters, Mrs. Agnes Sutherland of Lynn, Mrs. Etta Stebbins and Mrs. Bertha Favreau of this city, and Mrs. Abia Rogers of Los Angeles.

The funeral will be in Byron's funeral parlors Monday afternoon at 3.30 o'clock. Rev. D. L. Campbell will officiate. In Hillside Park Cemetery, where the mates of the trees "Andy" loved so well drop their shade in the summer, the body will go to its last resting place.

Newspaper:

The Morning Union  
Springfield, MA

Friday, January 21, 1927

Awful.

I groan and sigh and sob aloud;  
My wails sound wide and far,  
For Gladys is a pretty lass  
And I haven't got a car.

[Tennyson J. Daft in Kansas City Star.

The funeral of Andrew Goff was held yesterday afternoon at 3.30 o'clock in Byron's funeral parlors. Rev. D. L. Campbell officiated. Burial was in Hillcrest Park Cemetery.

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