

# Honorary Deputy Fire Chief Dies; Was 'Grand Lady'

Mrs. Charles F. Lawrence, the community's oldest native resident, known as Port's "Grand Lady", died Monday morning at the home of her daughter, Mrs. D.E. Webb Walker, 10 South Washington Street, following a short illness. She would have been 94 on Wednesday.

Known as "Ma" Lawrence and "Aunt Eff", she was the former Ethelinda Hults, daughter of Isaac and Alice Hults.

Mrs. Lawrence had lived the major part of her 93-years at the same location, 23 Carlton Avenue. Only recently when her health began to fail, did she move to the home of her daughter.

Her Carlton Avenue home made her famous, at least as far as the old time Port Washington Volunteer Firemen are concerned. Many years before the current fire alarm system was installed, the alarms were given by telephone to the fire houses. Mrs. Lawrence's home was next door to the Atlantic Fire House and she received the alarms in her bedroom via a telephone extension. When an alarm came in, she ran to the fire hall and pulled the rope attached to the big bell in the tower. She even had a rope run to her bedroom window so she could pull the bell rope at night without going outside. She performed this service for many years, and for her work, was awarded the title of an honorary Deputy Fire Chief and wore the badge presented her by the Vamps.

The local Methodist Church was another place where Mrs. Lawrence was a tireless worker for many years. As secretary of the Ladies Aid Society of the Church, she gave many years of service. In addition, Mrs. Lawrence taught a Sunday School class.

She is survived by a daughter Mrs. D.E. Webb Walker; a son, Wallace Lawrence of Carlton Avenue, and a brother, R. Burchard Hults, of 17 Jackson Street, former Port Washington Postmaster and director of the Nassau Knolls Memorial Park. Three grandchildren and seven great grandchildren also survive. Another son, R. Burchard Lawrence, died in 1944. Mr. Lawrence died in 1949.

Memorial services were con-



**Ethelinda Lawrence**

ducted by the Port Washington Fire Department at the Knowles Funeral Home Wednesday evening and religious services this afternoon (Thursday) with Dr. William Bruce Reed of the Methodist Church officiating. Interment followed in the Nassau Knolls Memorial Park.

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