

MARIA VAUGHAN (MRS. CHARLES COTTON) SALTER, 1918

conté crayon on paper, 17" x 12"

Tweed Museum of Art

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Maria Vaughan was reared in Providence, Rhode Island where she was born in 1836 to Harriet Sprague and Christopher Vaughan. Nothing is known of her early life or education. She married in 1859, moving on to Kewaunee, Illinois when her husband, Reverend Dr. Charles Cotton Salter, took the pulpit of its First Congregational Church. She was described by a Northern Illinois parishioner as beautiful. Husband and wife were separated when he served as a chaplain with the 13th Connecticut Regiment in the Civil War from March to August 1862. The Salters lived wherever he was called to a church including Missouri, Illinois, and Denver. They arrived in Minneapolis in October of 1862, remaining there seven years. Separations were the norm for the couple as Charles was affected by on-going poor health which resulted in frequent relocations from 1861 through 1887. At one point, he traveled to Egypt and the Holy Lands remaining abroad for two years. Another breakdown took him abroad again, and yet again when he spent a year in Italy. It is not clear if Maria accompanied him, visited him, or consistently remained behind with their five children. Maria came to Duluth in 1871, when Dr. Salter became the first reverend of Pilgrim Congregational Church. Maria Salter was one of 16 charter members of the Pilgrim congregation. Maria's husband founded the Duluth Bethel and the YMCA: Maria was also known as a devoted church worker. They were much admired and loved in Duluth: Salter school was named for the clergyman. Four of their five children lived in Duluth: Dr. William H., Frank I., Mary Josephine (Ohio), Charles Cotton, Jr., and Julia. Maria was widowed in 1897, when her youngest child was 15 years old. Maria lived on in Duluth and died of cancer in her Woodland home March 24, 1923 at the age of 87. She is buried in Duluth, her home of 52 years, at Forest Hill Cemetery.

