

Ada James, Well Respected Citizen, Dies



A long and useful life came to a close Monday night, September 29th, when Miss Ada James, 76, answered the final call and passed away at her home, 383 East Haseltine street, following a long illness.

Miss James' life, or the greatest share of it, had been devoted to doing kindly deeds to the less fortunate and her passing will be keenly felt by those she aided, as well as the entire city and county. She was a prominent leader in civic affairs and also in club life, belonging to many worthy organizations in the city. She was a prominent leader in the Woman's Suffrage movement, prominent in political as well as city affairs and gained state wide praise for her worthy deeds.

Miss James was active in temperance circles, served as chairman of the Salvation Army fund drive in this county and at one time was a member of the Richland Center Police Commission. Rooms in the building she owned on E. Court street were made available by her for the use of the youth of the community as a recreation center.

The D. G. James Memorial Fund, started in November 1922, was administered by Miss James. This fund was set aside as a trust fund to care for needy and deserving children and widows as well as to aid young persons in their education. Many received aid from this fund which helped them to take college work or training in other fields of education giving them a start in life which they otherwise would not have received.

Miss James was a descendant of one of Richland Center's pioneer families, her grandfather George H. James, coming here in 1855 and some seven years later opened a hardware store which in later years was owned and operated by Miss James' father D. G. James. The James residence on East Haseltine street has been the home of Miss James during her entire life. The last few years her companion has been the former Richland county public health nurse, Miss Mary Ahlhorn.

Surviving are two nephews, James E. Brindley, Richland Center mayor, and Richard Brindley, La Crosse; three nieces, Mrs. Dan Young, Richland Center, Mrs. F. G. Cook, Hillsboro, and Mrs. Theodore Stark, Minneapolis; a brother-in-law E. E. Brindley and a sister-in-law Mrs. O. B. James, Richland Center.

Ada L. James was born March 23, 1876, in Richland Center, to David G. and Laura Briggs James. She attended the Richland Center schools graduating in 1894, later teaching in the Richland Center schools. Miss James never married but continued to live in the old home until her death.

Funeral services are to be held at the Lunenschloss-Doudna Funeral Home this Thursday afternoon with Glen Turner officiating at the Unitarian service. Burial will be in the family lot in the Richland Center cemetery.

The family has made a request that there be no flowers but will accept gifts to be placed in the cancer fund.

In Memoriam

The real measure of a successful life is not in terms of length of life but how well it is lived! Many know the greatness of character and intellect of Miss Ada James. Character is essentially the thought of an individual translated into terms of social action.

The secret—if it be a secret—of Miss James' long and successful career in many lines of endeavor, will be found in her vision and breadth of mind; in an unquenchable faith in her neighbor and in love for all with whom she came in contact. Not interested in creeds and doctrines, she was most tolerant toward all religious faiths. Her consuming passion and desire was for the upright life and to help her fellow man to better living.

Hundreds have been helped by Miss James, by good advice, by financial aid, by untiring daily work as Chairman of the Richland County Children's Board. This was her chosen work and she never failed those who came to her for aid.

To we who worked with her during the past years, as Board members and Welfare workers, we pen this memorial with knowledge of her interest and devotion in the problems of the needy of our county. In our love and respect for her we rejoice at this time for the privilege of working with her. Through our contacts with her she has built in our lives a monument that will never be torn down. We cherish her memory with love and gratitude and know she will live on with us as well as with those she befriended, in whose interest she devoted her life.

Children's Board. Kittie Weitzel, Ray Lawton, Helen Thomson, Joe Seep, P. L. Lincoln, Lucile Edwards, Amos Peckham, Dr. Bertha Reynolds, Hattie Loveless.

Welfare Department. Eleanor Starr, Dollie Johnson, Beatrice Hurlless, Edith Pier, Catherine Recob.

Dr. Bertha Reynolds, Favorite County Doctor in Area, Dies



DR. BERTHA REYNOLDS

LONE ROCK—Dr. Bertha Reynolds, 93, one of the most beloved country doctors in area medical history, died Tuesday (Oct. 31, 1961) in a Dodgeville hospital after a long illness.

Dr. Reynolds' career as a physician began in 1902 in the horse and buggy days, and she continued serving Lone Rock, Avoca, and Spring Green area patients for about 50 years.

After receiving her medical training at the University of Nebraska and the Women's Medical College, Chicago, Ill., she got her first job as assistant physician at a Prairie du Chien sanitarium. She took over her brother's Lone Rock practice in 1904, where she practiced until 1940 when she retired and moved to Avoca.

But her retirement was short-lived, and she soon returned to active practice when Avoca lost its resident physician.

Although her first calls were made with a horse and buggy, she soon graduated to a Model T and often had Lone Rock youths do her driving for her.

In many instances when roads were flooded she resorted to airplane travel to get to her patients. At one time she made an emergency call with a then unknown barnstorming pilot named Charles A. Lindbergh.

She was one of the physicians who worked through a 1918 influenza epidemic and the tornado of 1914, which kept her on the job without sleep for 40 hours.

Through the years Dr. Reynolds was awarded many honors for her medical service.

But perhaps the greatest triumph of all was the appreciation of the hundreds of people whom Dr. Bertha Reynolds brought into the world.

Funeral services will be held Friday morning at 10:00 a. m. at the Pratt Memorial Chapel with Rev. J. Leslie Leonard officiating. Burial will be in the Bear Valley Cemetery.

DEATH OF MARY SPEIDEL

Mrs. Mary M. Speidel, pioneer business lady of this city, died at her home in this city on March 25 at the age of 82 years. She had been in failing health for some time. Mrs. Speidel, whose maiden name was Mary Cook, was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Cook, was born on November 10, 1848 in Newark, New York. At the age of 17 she came with her parents to this county and settled in the town of Rockbridge. On June 29, 1876, she was united in marriage to Charles Speidel and to this union five children were born, Clarence, who died in early boyhood, Mrs. Edna Pier, of Monrovia, California; Mrs. Edith Downs, Lester and Clyde Speidel, of this city. She also leaves one brother, John Cook, of International Falls, Minnesota, and two sisters, Mrs. Florence Brewer and Mrs. Etta Davis, of this city.

Mrs. Speidel for many years assisted her husband in the jewelry store and following his death kept on with the work with her son, Clyde.

Funeral services were held Sunday from the Pratt Funeral Home, Rev. Dawson, of the Episcopal church officiating. Burial was made in the city cemetery.

Margaret H. Scott

Margaret Helen Scott, 95, of Richland Center, died Tuesday, Mar. 29, 1994.

She was born Dec. 26, 1898 in Richland Center to Lena and John T. Scott. As a child she attended the old White School, the Southside School and the high school. During her high school days, she gave a lot of her time, helping her mother take care of her invalid brother, John Jr. who died at nine years of age in 1911.

Her educational career was: University of Wisconsin B.A., 1921, University of California, teacher's certificate, 1932, and Chicago University M.A., 1943.

Her professional career: 1921-1923, teacher of history and English, Ladysmith High School and librarian; 1923-1929, teacher of English in the Richland Center High School; 1935-1936, teacher of English in the Baraboo Junior High; 1936-1937, teacher of history and librarian, Marion, Ala.; 1937-1943, assistant librarian, Talladega College, Talladega, Ala.; 1944-1945, opened a library in a coal company town in Stone, Ky.; 1945-1947, school, city and county librarian, Lapeer, Mich.; and 1948-1966, librarian, Talladega College, Talladega, Ala.

During her years at Talladega College, she set up a library in the poorest of areas. She also asked the college for a bookmobile, to take books out to the very poor black schools.

During the years before retirement, she wrote poetry, painted, and took many slides with her camera.

She retired in 1964 and moved back to Richland Center. In the first three years, she spent indexing 152 years of the local newspapers. It was also during this time, she organized the Historical Room at the A. Keith Brewer Library. She gave 10 years to this project. In 1978, the room was named in her honor. Also during this time, she started working on her first book, "Richland Center, Wisconsin, A History". Then four more books followed: "The Place Names of Richland County", "Glory to Thy Name", "The Role of the River" and "Energy's Footprints", and "Say Ah, A Hundred Years of Medicine in Richland County."

In 1979, Margaret moved to Schmitt Woodland Hills. She was asked by Bruce Barrett if she would write about the Warehouse, here in Richland Center that was designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. She did, and "The Warehouse" became her sixth book. She has another book now being printed at The Richland Observer. This book is about her life in the south, and is called "The Miracles of Dixie".

She was a member of Trinity United Methodist Church, member of the Gray



Margaret Helen Scott

Ladies for 21 years, honorary member of Delta Kappa Gamma for many years, and the Coterie group for many years.

Margaret has had many articles written about her in The Richland Observer. She has received many awards and honors for her writings. She said she had a wonderful life, and she did.

To her family, she was known as "Auntie".

She was preceded in death by her parents and brother.

Survivors include her sister, Agnes Erma Morton; two nieces, Margaret Ann (Paul) Foster and Marydith Mae Paulson; great-nieces and nephews, Sandra and Bob Totten, Mark and Sandy Paulson, David Paulson, Paula Whitehurst, Scott Foster, Cindy and Bill Jacobson, Kevin and Gina Foster; great-great-nieces and nephews, Lisa and Curtis Waltz, Julie, Paiage and Molly Paulson, Emily and Mark Jr. Paulson, Heather Whitehurst, Thia, Dow, Brandon and Nicole Foster, and Chad Jacobson and numerous good friends.

Funeral services will be held at Trinity United Methodist Church at 11 a.m. Saturday, Apr. 2, 1994 with Rev. Jim Wilson and Sara Chaney co-officiating. Burial will be in the Richland Center Cemetery. Friends may call at the Pratt Memorial Chapel on Friday, Apr. 1 from 5-8 p.m. and at the church from 10 a.m. until service time Saturday. Memorials may be made to Trinity United Methodist Church.

—Word was received in the city recently of the death at Huston, Texas, of Mrs. Frank J. Renney, who will be remembered here as Miss Eno Downs, a former resident of this city for many years. Mrs. Renney was 57 years of age and is survived by her husband and one son Buford. Funeral services were held at Huston and burial made there.

Emelia Snyder Dies Sunday

Miss Emelia E. Snyder, 62, lifelong resident of the immediate area, died Sunday at the Richland Hospital, where she had been a patient since Wednesday, when she was taken suddenly ill.

Miss Snyder, who lived most of her life on a farm just northwest of the city, was a recognized artist, having been mentioned in a Life Magazine article in 1941, and having received firsts in several local and area contests. Only last week her name was included among the winners in the Hill and Valley Regional Art show.

Funeral services were held Wednesday afternoon at 3 p.m. at the Pratt Memorial Chapel with the Rev. Louis Stoker officiating. Burial was in the Richland Center cemetery.

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—Dr. Sara Elliott, formerly of this city, died Wednesday last at West Palm Beach, Florida, where she had been for some time past. Mrs. Elliott was well known here and had many friends in this city and county. The body was brought to Lone Rock where funeral services were held Sunday, burial being made in the Button cemetery in the town of Buena Vista.