

Kansas Memory



Kansas Woman's Christian Temperance Union memory book

Section 6, Pages 151 - 180

This memorial book contains photographs and biographical sketches of members of the Kansas Woman's Christian Temperance Union. Click "Text Version" below for a searchable index of the names contained in this volume.

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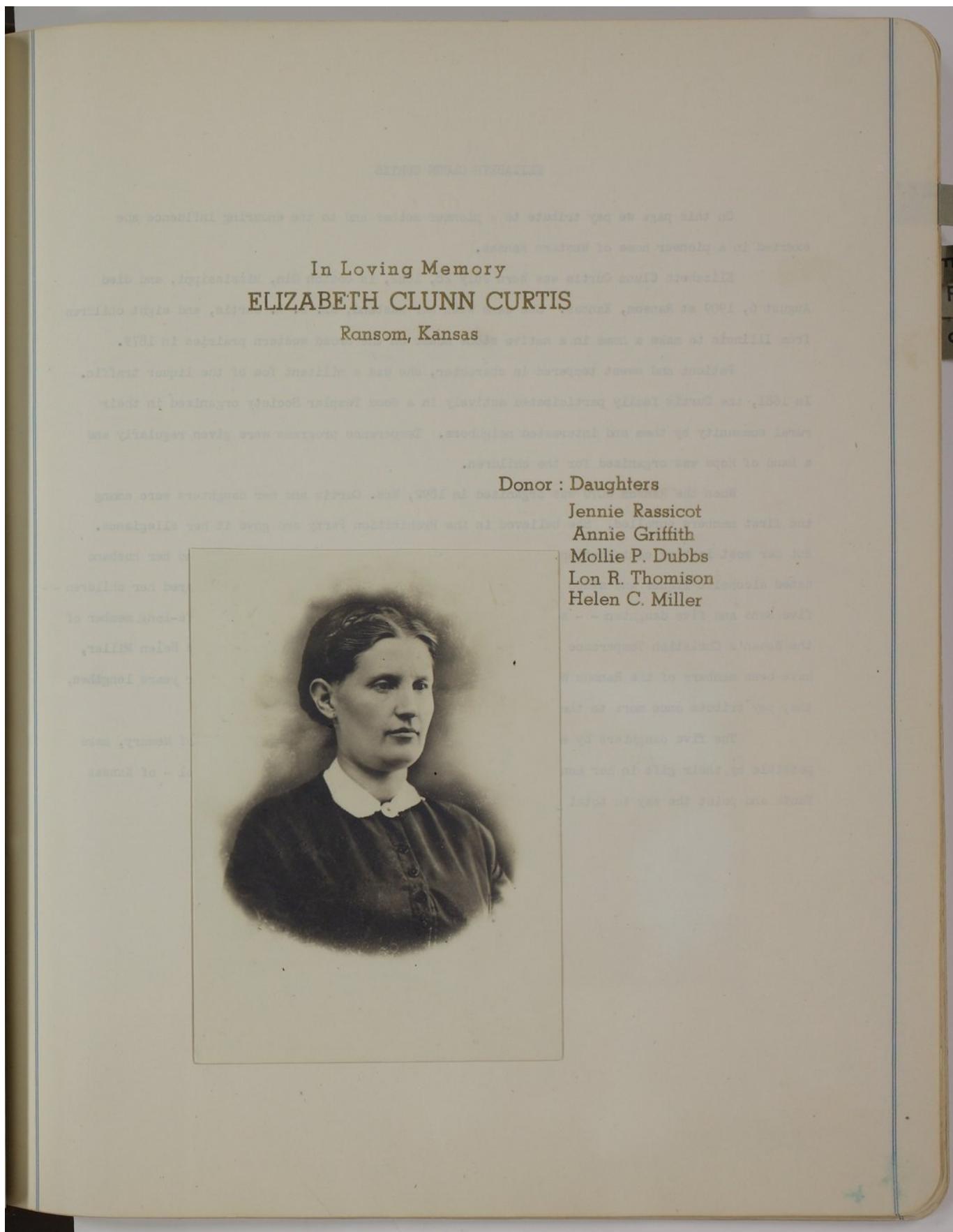
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ELIZABETH CLUNN CURTIS

On this page we pay tribute to a pioneer mother and to the enduring influence she exerted in a pioneer home of Western Kansas.

Elizabeth Clunn Curtis was born July 28, 1842, in Cotton Gin, Mississippi, and died August 6, 1909 at Ransom, Kansas. She came with her husband, Dr. D. B. Curtis, and eight children from Illinois to make a home in a native stone house on the broad western prairies in 1879.

Patient and sweet tempered in character, she was a militant foe of the liquor traffic. In 1881, the Curtis family participated actively in a Good Templar Society organized in their rural community by them and interested neighbors. Temperance programs were given regularly and a Band of Hope was organized for the children.

When the Ransom WCTU was organized in 1892, Mrs. Curtis and her daughters were among the first members enrolled. She believed in the Prohibition Party and gave it her allegiance. But her most lasting contribution to the temperance cause was in the home. She and her husband hated alcoholic liquor and stood on the right side of any moral question. She reared her children -- five sons and five daughters -- accordingly. Each of the daughters has been a life-long member of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union. Three, Jennie Rassicot, Mollie Dubbs, and Helen Miller, have been members of the Ransom WCTU continuously since young womanhood. As their years lengthen, they pay tribute once more to the lasting influence of a consecrated mother.

The five daughters by memorializing their dear one in this sacred Book of Memory, make possible by their gift in her honor information about the great destroyer - alcohol - of Kansas Youth and point the way to total abstinence for other young people.

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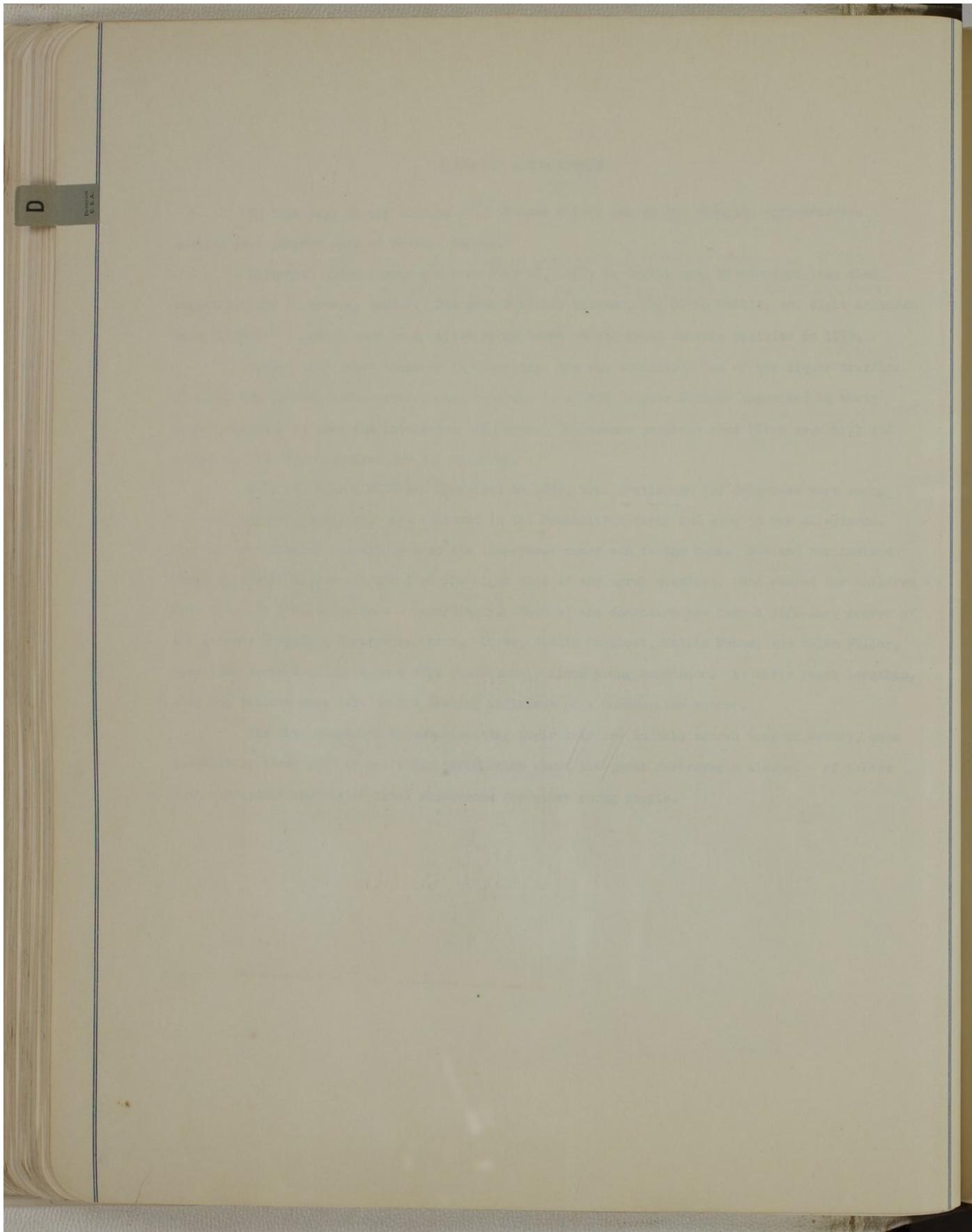


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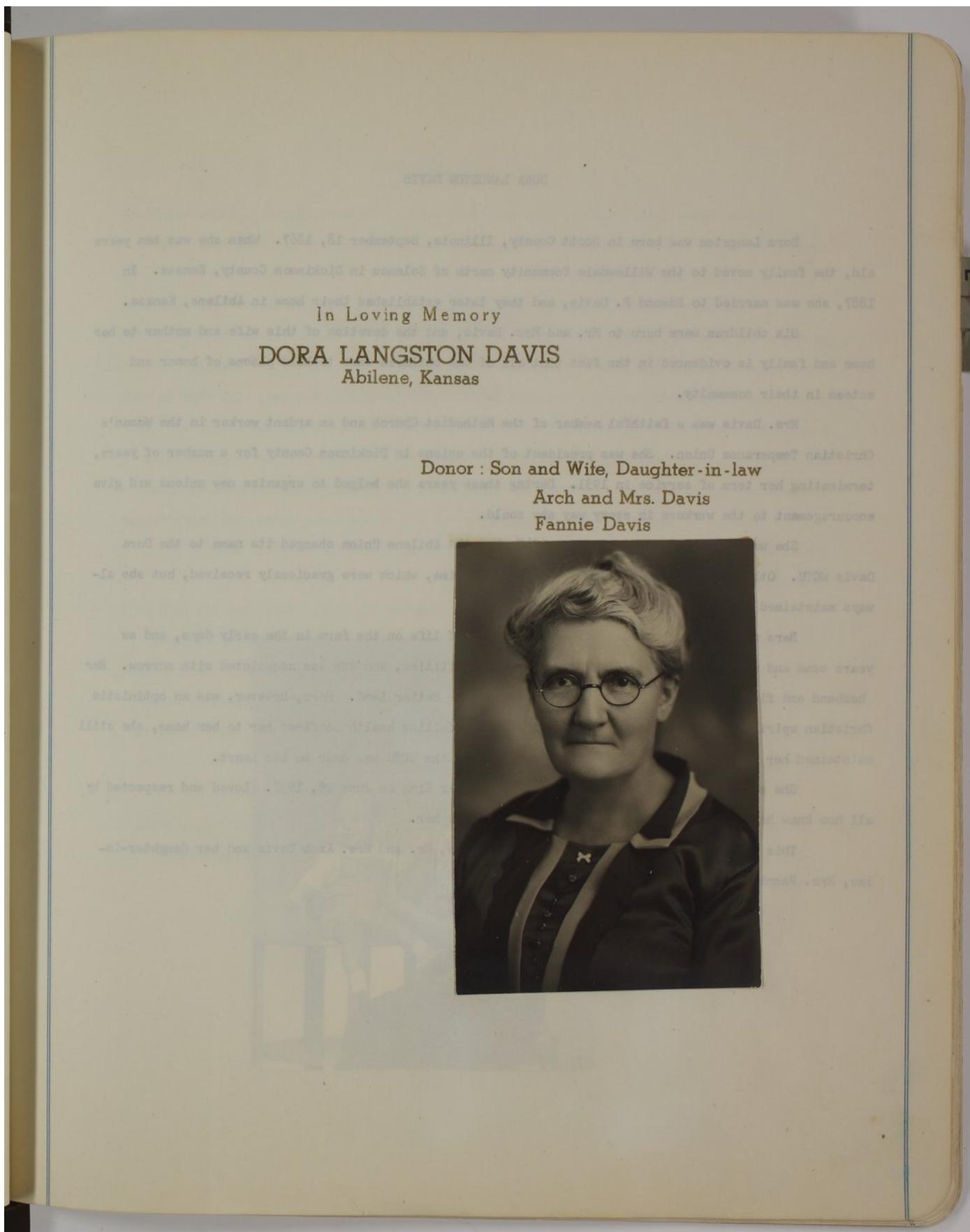


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DORA LANGSTON DAVIS

Dora Langston was born in Scott County, Illinois, September 18, 1867. When she was ten years old, the family moved to the Willowdale Community north of Solomon in Dickinson County, Kansas. In 1887, she was married to Edmund F. Davis, and they later established their home in Abilene, Kansas.

Six children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Davis, and the devotion of this wife and mother to her home and family is evidenced in the fact that all of the children came to hold places of honor and esteem in their community.

Mrs. Davis was a faithful member of the Methodist Church and an ardent worker in the Woman's Christian Temperance Union. She was president of the unions in Dickinson County for a number of years, terminating her term of service in 1931. During these years she helped to organize new unions and give encouragement to the workers in every way she could.

She was given a special honor in 1945 when the Abilene Union changed its name to the Dora Davis WCTU. Other honors were given her from time to time, which were graciously received, but she always maintained a modest, unassuming disposition.

Hers was no easy life. She knew the rigors of life on the farm in the early days, and as years came and went she experienced increased responsibilities, and she was acquainted with sorrow. Her husband and five sons and daughters preceded her to the Better Land. Hers, however, was an optimistic Christian spirit, and her confidence was in God. When failing health confined her to her home, she still maintained her interest in church and civic affairs and the WCTU was dear to her heart.

She entered the larger field of service for her King on June 26, 1952. Loved and respected by all who knew her, she passed on, and her works do follow her.

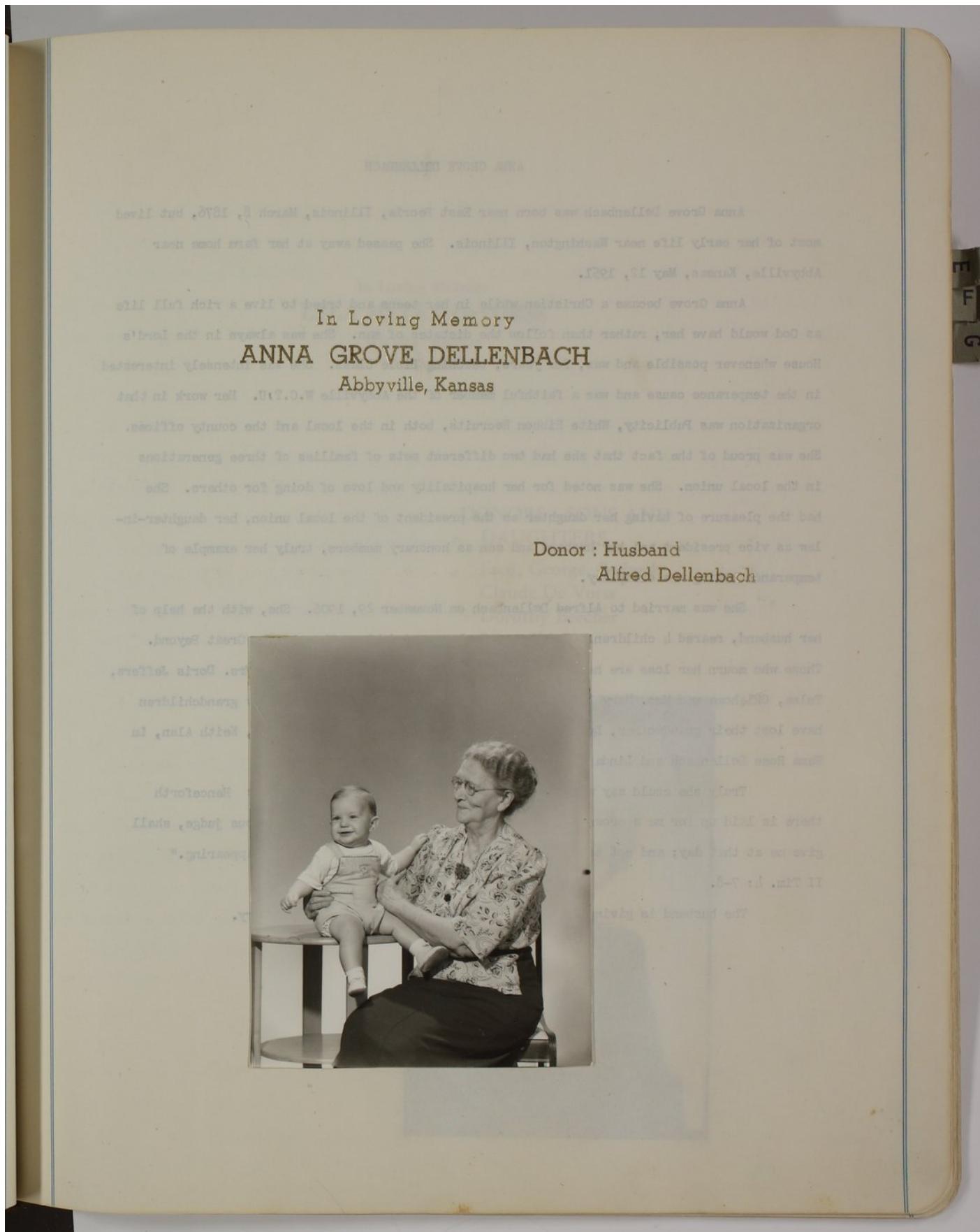
This memorial is presented by her son and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Arch Davis and her daughter-in-law, Mrs. Fannie Davis.

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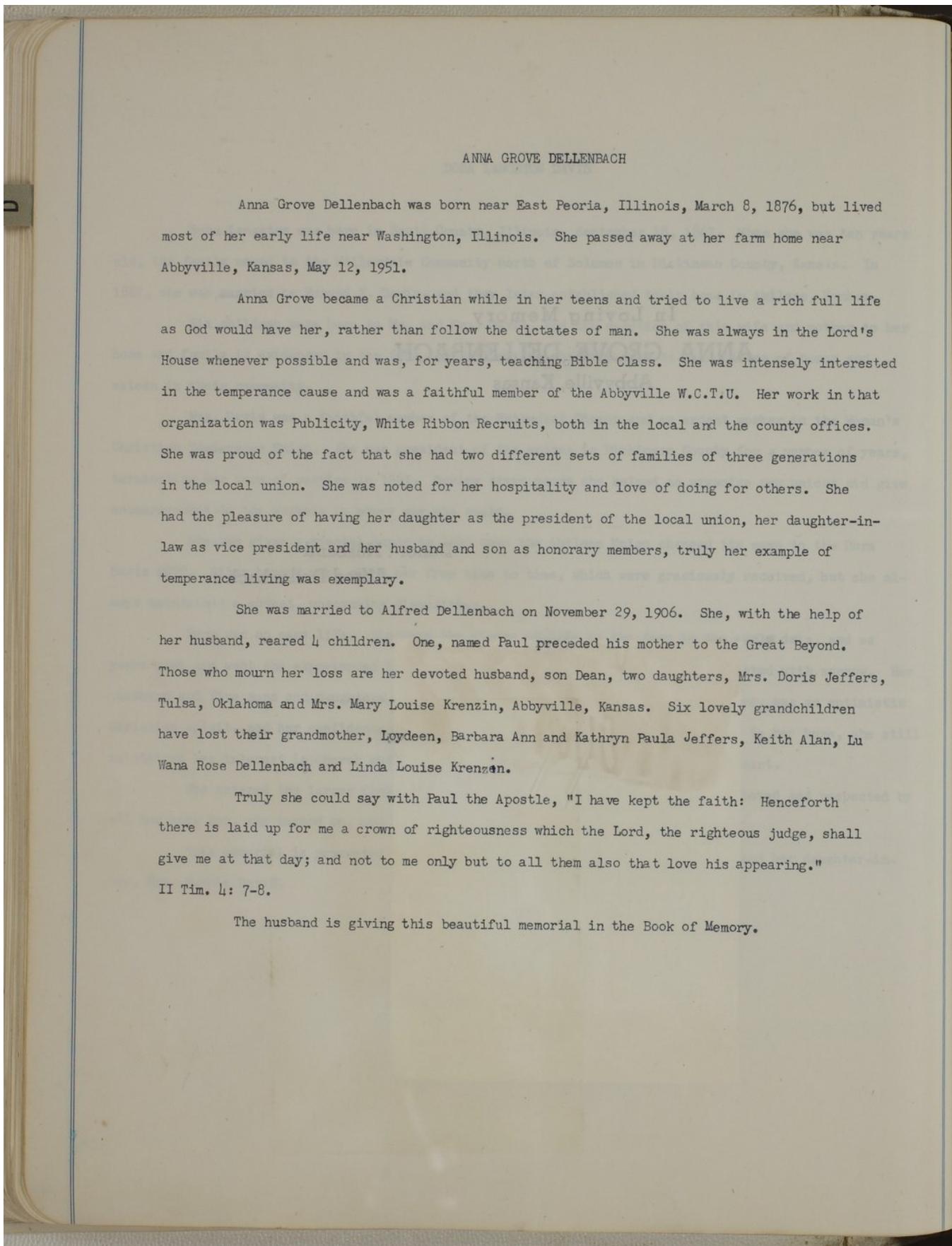


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ANNA GROVE DELLENBACH

Anna Grove Dellenbach was born near East Peoria, Illinois, March 8, 1876, but lived most of her early life near Washington, Illinois. She passed away at her farm home near Abbyville, Kansas, May 12, 1951.

Anna Grove became a Christian while in her teens and tried to live a rich full life as God would have her, rather than follow the dictates of man. She was always in the Lord's House whenever possible and was, for years, teaching Bible Class. She was intensely interested in the temperance cause and was a faithful member of the Abbyville W.C.T.U. Her work in that organization was Publicity, White Ribbon Recruits, both in the local and the county offices. She was proud of the fact that she had two different sets of families of three generations in the local union. She was noted for her hospitality and love of doing for others. She had the pleasure of having her daughter as the president of the local union, her daughter-in-law as vice president and her husband and son as honorary members, truly her example of temperance living was exemplary.

She was married to Alfred Dellenbach on November 29, 1906. She, with the help of her husband, reared 4 children. One, named Paul preceded his mother to the Great Beyond. Those who mourn her loss are her devoted husband, son Dean, two daughters, Mrs. Doris Jeffers, Tulsa, Oklahoma and Mrs. Mary Louise Krenzin, Abbyville, Kansas. Six lovely grandchildren have lost their grandmother, Loydeen, Barbara Ann and Kathryn Paula Jeffers, Keith Alan, Lu Wana Rose Dellenbach and Linda Louise Krenzin.

Truly she could say with Paul the Apostle, "I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day; and not to me only but to all them also that love his appearing."

II Tim. 4: 7-8.

The husband is giving this beautiful memorial in the Book of Memory.

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In Loving Memory

LELA MEYER DeVORSS

Wichita, Kansas

**DONORS—SONS AND
DAUGHTERS**

Fred, George, Buford,
Claude De Vorss
Dorothy Beecher
Mary Shields



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IN MEMORIAM

OF

MRS. LELA M. DEVORSS

In memory of the passing of Mrs. Lela M. DeVorss, December 4, 1954, the family, loved ones, Church, WCTU and the community have keenly missed her absence. Words are inadequate in expressing what her passing has meant to the different branches in which she served. First her family lost a devout Mother. She reared a most remarkable family of six children--four sons and two daughters. One son now serving as Mayor of the City of Wichita, Kansas.

Mrs. DeVorss was born in Wichita, Kansas, April 11, 1880, and attended school in Wichita. After the death of her father, the mother and two daughters moved to Oklahoma, where Mrs. DeVorss taught school in Calumet, Oklahoma. She later served as Post-Mistress at Bridgeport, Oklahoma. It was in Oklahoma that she was married to Charles O. DeVorss on January 2, 1902. After the marriage they moved to Missouri and Mr. DeVorss entered the Spanish American Army--serving until the end of the war. Several years later the family moved to Wichita and established the family home. Mr. DeVorss was an employee for the Wichita Post Office for twenty years and died on duty with a sudden heart attack on February 6, 1933. This was a severe shock to the entire family. With this unexpected responsibility, and her children looking to her for guidance, Mrs. DeVorss entered into this tremendous task bravely and renewed her dependence on God. Here is where the writer stepped in and gave as much moral and financial support as humanly possible, as I was deeply concerned in seeing the children cared for and get an education. Having been left without either of my parents while still in my teens, I keenly felt what this loss meant. Mrs. DeVorss and I were cousins and she very graciously took me in and was a wonderful Mother and Christian example for any orphan. We managed with a strong faith in the Creator of all things to help us through--. We worked together through trials and difficulties and all needs were supplied. I came to live in the home in 1910. Mrs. DeVorss was a loyal Christian worker. She had hosts of friends and in her visits she made a special effort to represent her Christ.

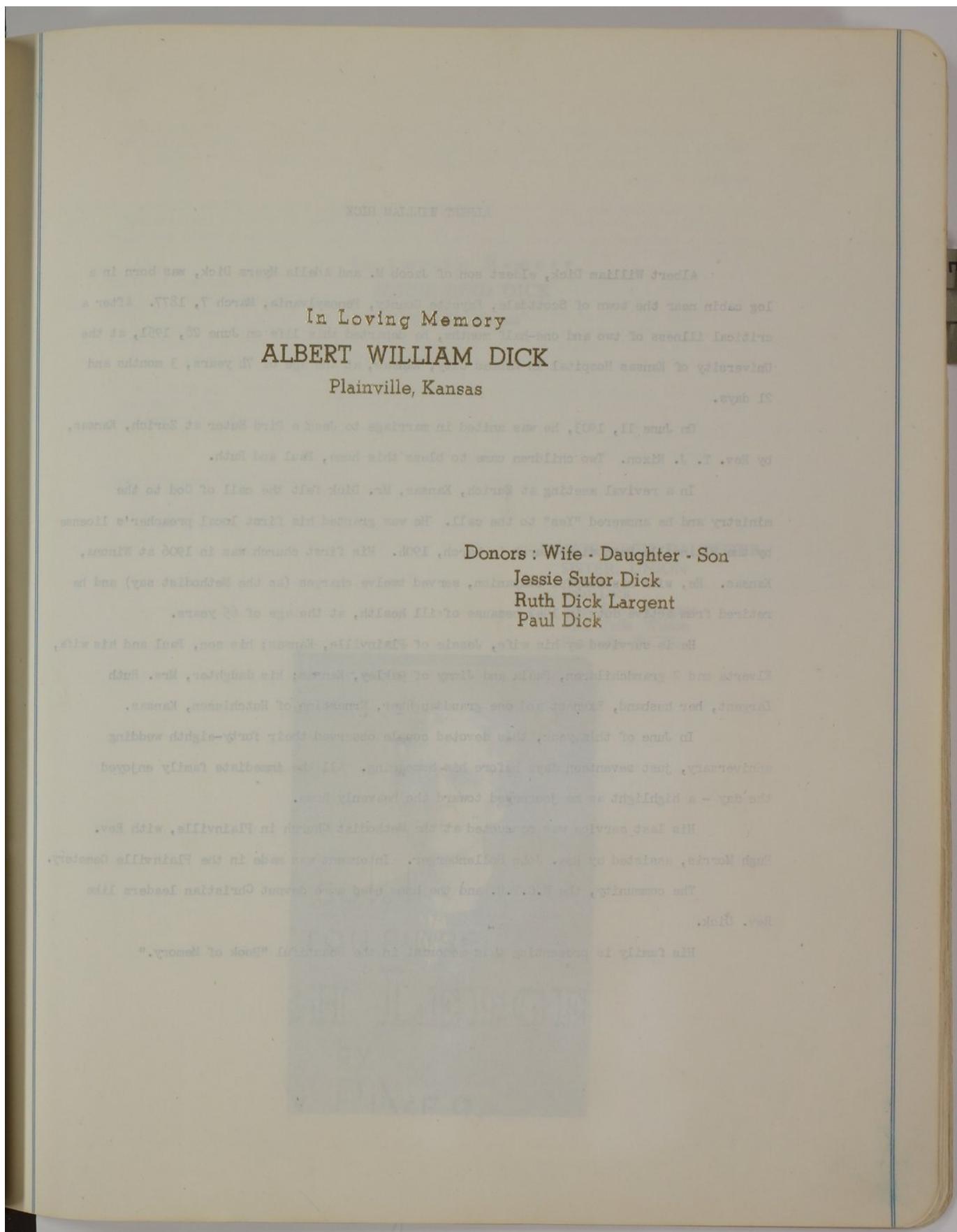
Her hobby was letter writing and she contacted many shut-in and people who were unable to get out of their homes and also hospital patients. Mrs. DeVorss was active to the last in her WCTU work,- the Spanish American War Auxillary, and the Church. Though her place is vacant in all these places of activity, she still holds her place in our hearts.
HONORED BY: Lydia Grodeon-----

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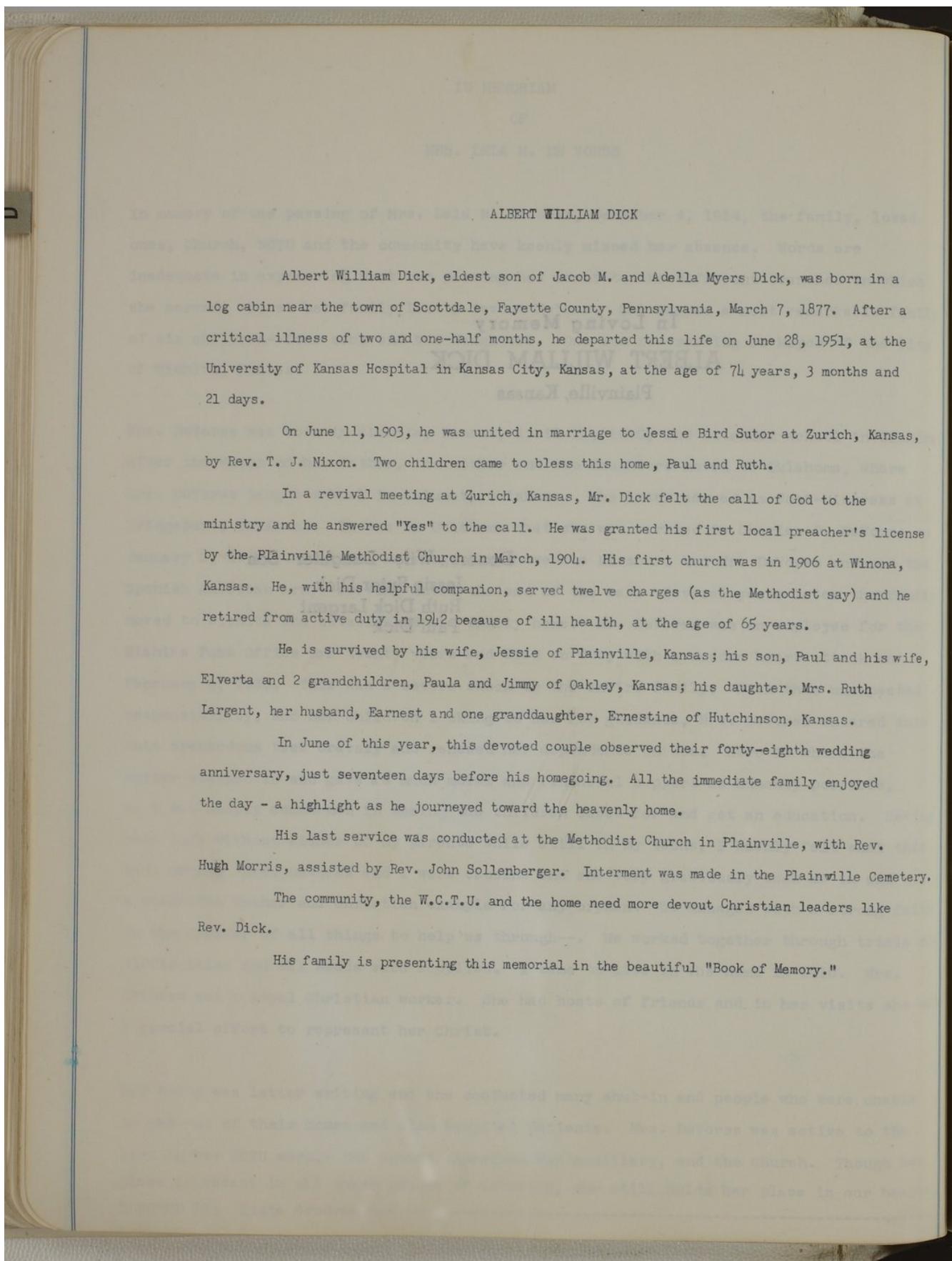


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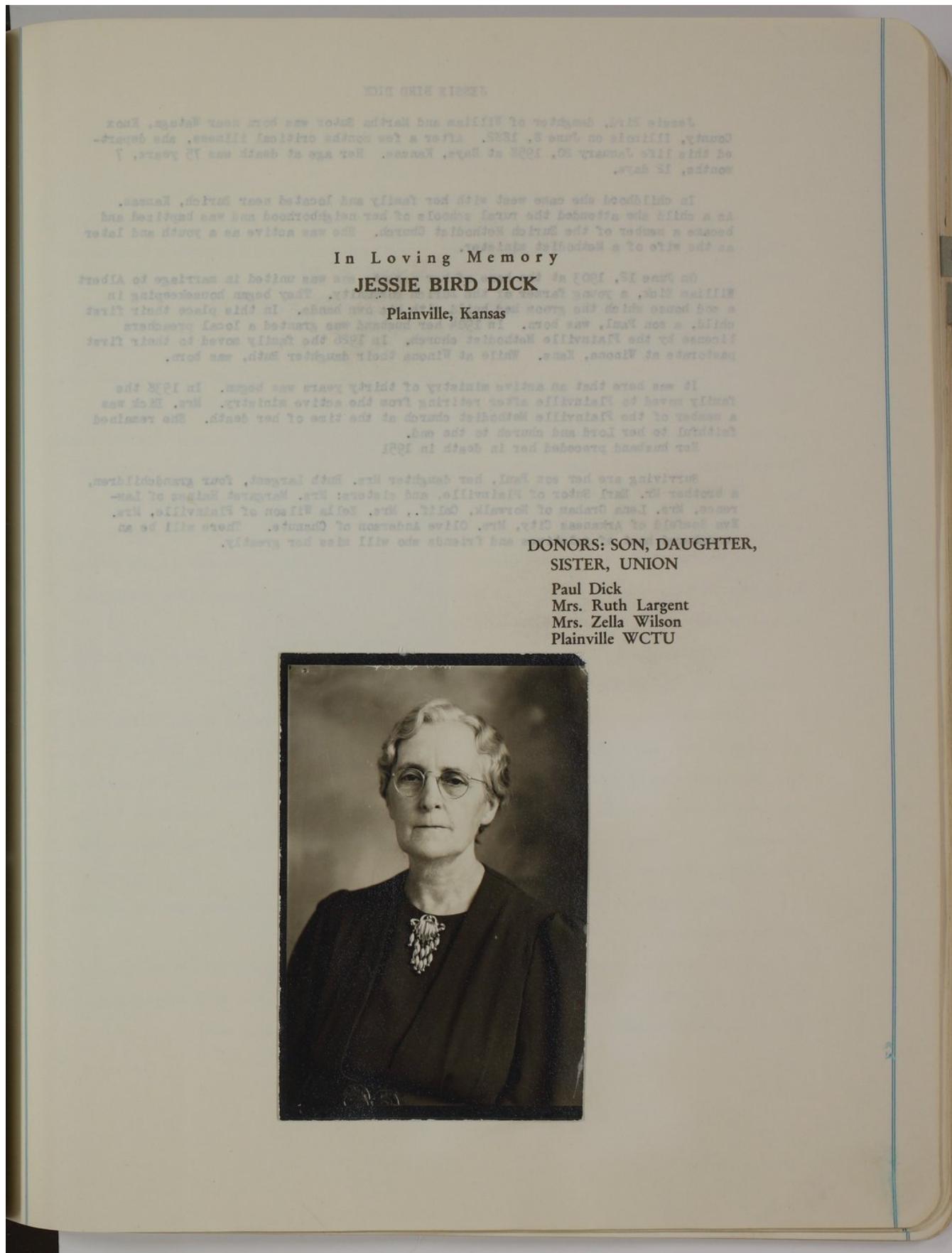


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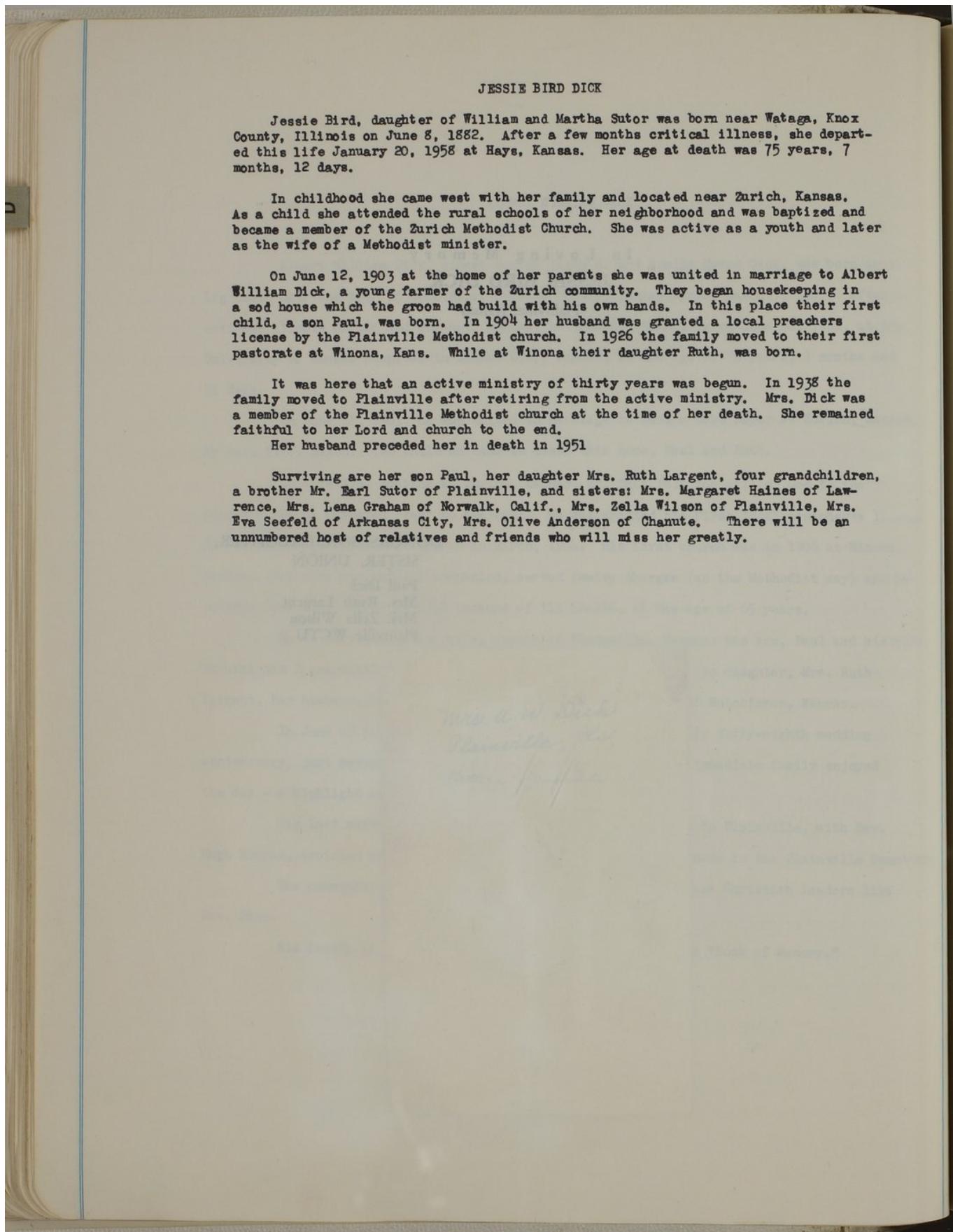


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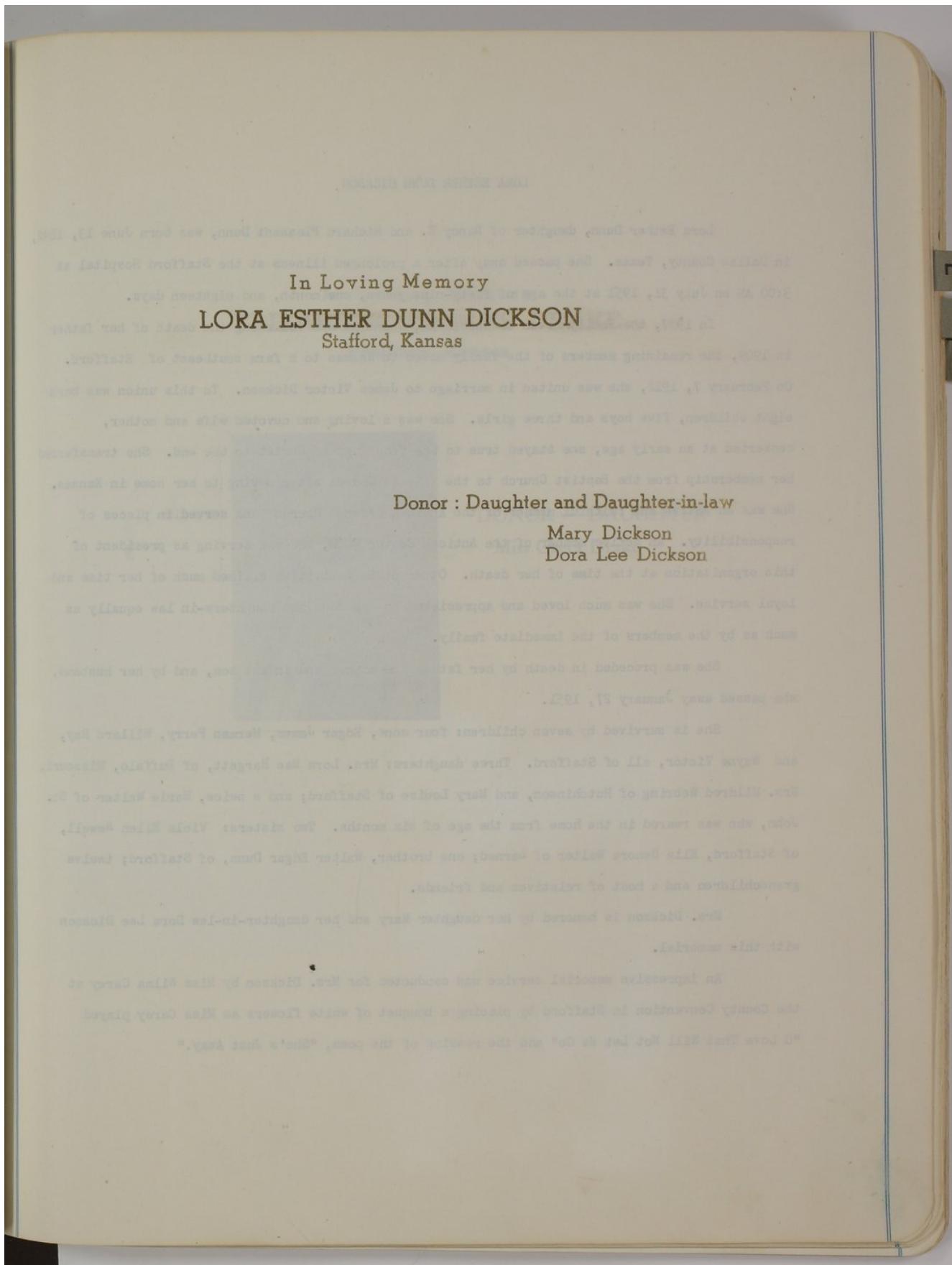


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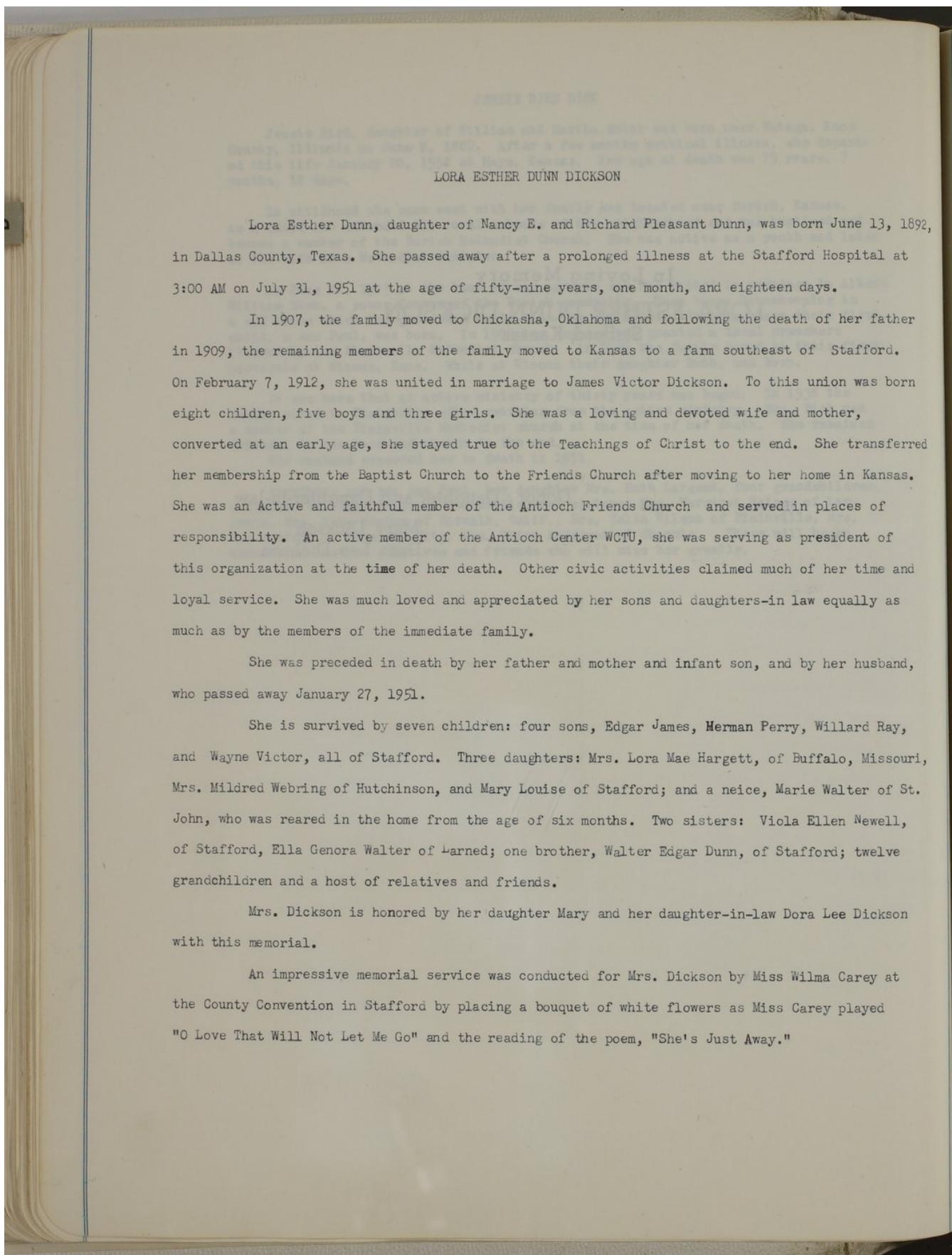


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Jessie Dick, daughter of William and Martha Dunn was born near Watauga, Texas County, Illinois on June 5, 1862. After a few months' mental illness, she departed this life at the age of twenty-one years, one month, and fifteen days.
LORA ESTHER DUNN DICKSON

Lora Esther Dunn, daughter of Nancy E. and Richard Pleasant Dunn, was born June 13, 1892, in Dallas County, Texas. She passed away after a prolonged illness at the Stafford Hospital at 3:00 AM on July 31, 1951 at the age of fifty-nine years, one month, and eighteen days.

In 1907, the family moved to Chickasha, Oklahoma and following the death of her father in 1909, the remaining members of the family moved to Kansas to a farm southeast of Stafford. On February 7, 1912, she was united in marriage to James Victor Dickson. To this union was born eight children, five boys and three girls. She was a loving and devoted wife and mother, converted at an early age, she stayed true to the Teachings of Christ to the end. She transferred her membership from the Baptist Church to the Friends Church after moving to her home in Kansas. She was an Active and faithful member of the Antioch Friends Church and served in places of responsibility. An active member of the Antioch Center WCTU, she was serving as president of this organization at the time of her death. Other civic activities claimed much of her time and loyal service. She was much loved and appreciated by her sons and daughters-in law equally as much as by the members of the immediate family.

She was preceded in death by her father and mother and infant son, and by her husband, who passed away January 27, 1951.

She is survived by seven children: four sons, Edgar James, Herman Perry, Willard Ray, and Wayne Victor, all of Stafford. Three daughters: Mrs. Lora Mae Hargett, of Buffalo, Missouri, Mrs. Mildred Webring of Hutchinson, and Mary Louise of Stafford; and a niece, Marie Walter of St. John, who was reared in the home from the age of six months. Two sisters: Viola Ellen Newell, of Stafford, Ella Genora Walter of Larned; one brother, Walter Edgar Dunn, of Stafford; twelve grandchildren and a host of relatives and friends.

Mrs. Dickson is honored by her daughter Mary and her daughter-in-law Dora Lee Dickson with this memorial.

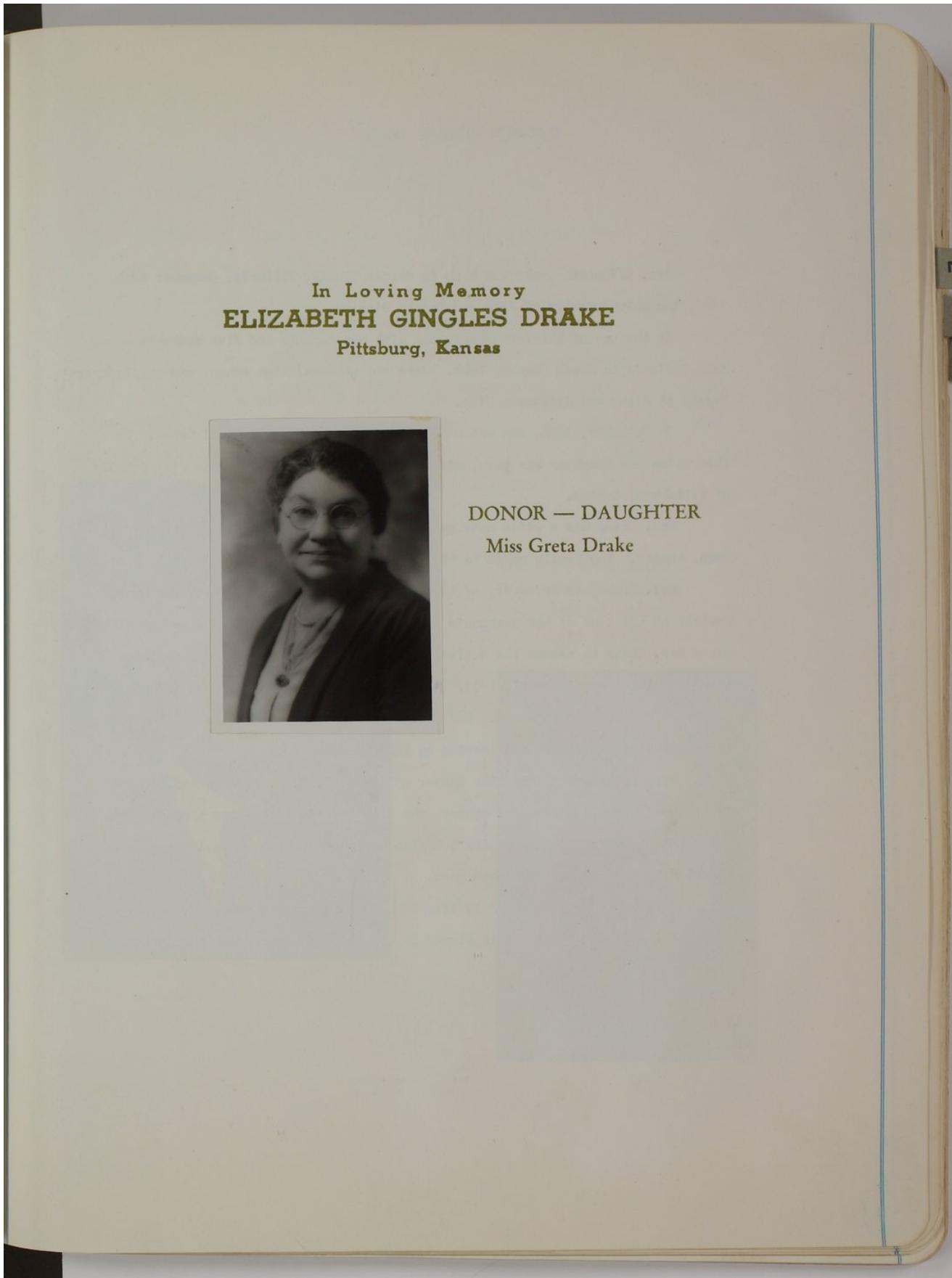
An impressive memorial service was conducted for Mrs. Dickson by Miss Wilma Carey at the County Convention in Stafford by placing a bouquet of white flowers as Miss Carey played "O Love That Will Not Let Me Go" and the reading of the poem, "She's Just Away."

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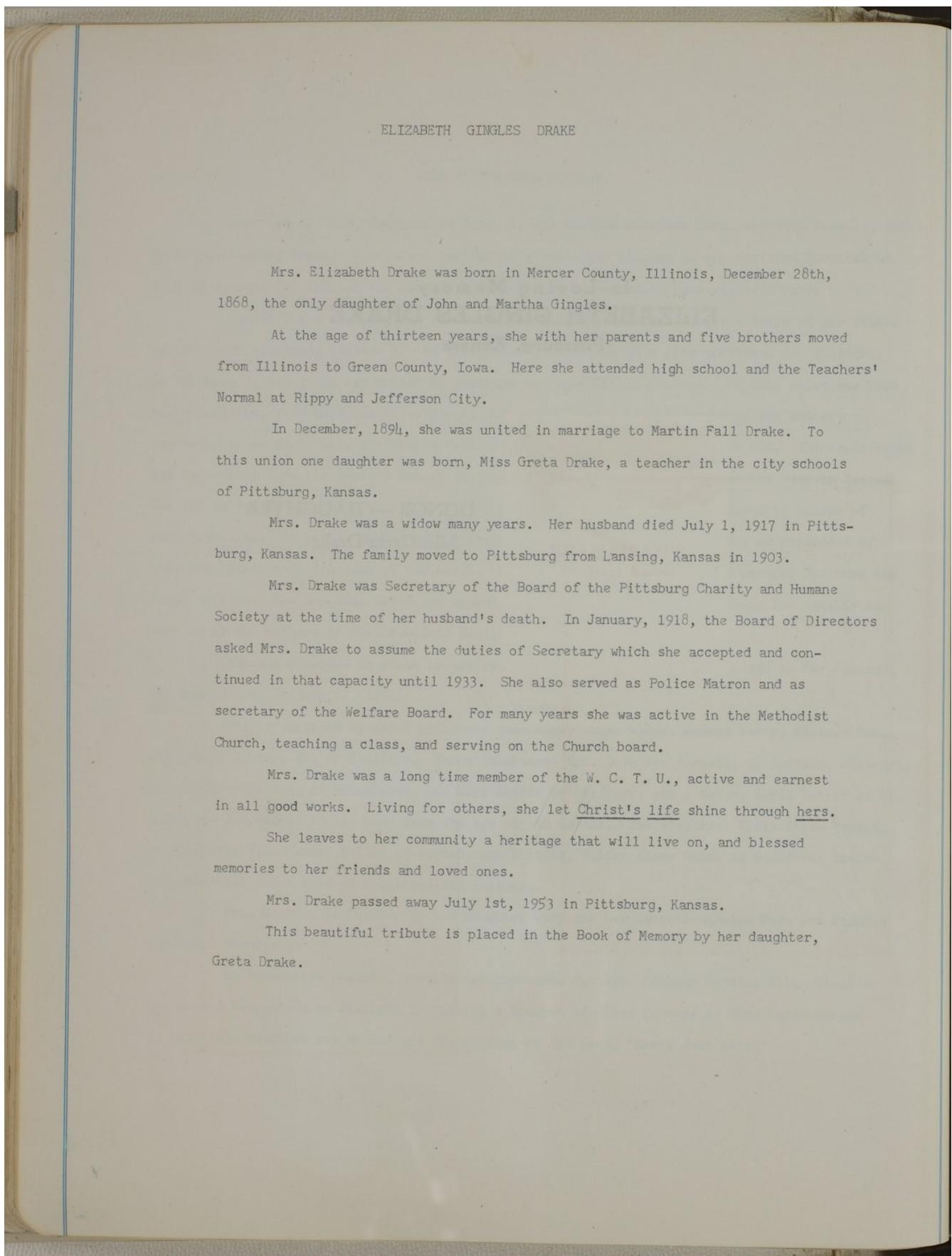
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ELIZABETH GINGLES DRAKE

Mrs. Elizabeth Drake was born in Mercer County, Illinois, December 28th, 1868, the only daughter of John and Martha Gingles.

At the age of thirteen years, she with her parents and five brothers moved from Illinois to Green County, Iowa. Here she attended high school and the Teachers' Normal at Rippy and Jefferson City.

In December, 1894, she was united in marriage to Martin Fall Drake. To this union one daughter was born, Miss Greta Drake, a teacher in the city schools of Pittsburg, Kansas.

Mrs. Drake was a widow many years. Her husband died July 1, 1917 in Pittsburg, Kansas. The family moved to Pittsburg from Lansing, Kansas in 1903.

Mrs. Drake was Secretary of the Board of the Pittsburg Charity and Humane Society at the time of her husband's death. In January, 1918, the Board of Directors asked Mrs. Drake to assume the duties of Secretary which she accepted and continued in that capacity until 1933. She also served as Police Matron and as secretary of the Welfare Board. For many years she was active in the Methodist Church, teaching a class, and serving on the Church board.

Mrs. Drake was a long time member of the W. C. T. U., active and earnest in all good works. Living for others, she let Christ's life shine through hers.

She leaves to her community a heritage that will live on, and blessed memories to her friends and loved ones.

Mrs. Drake passed away July 1st, 1953 in Pittsburg, Kansas.

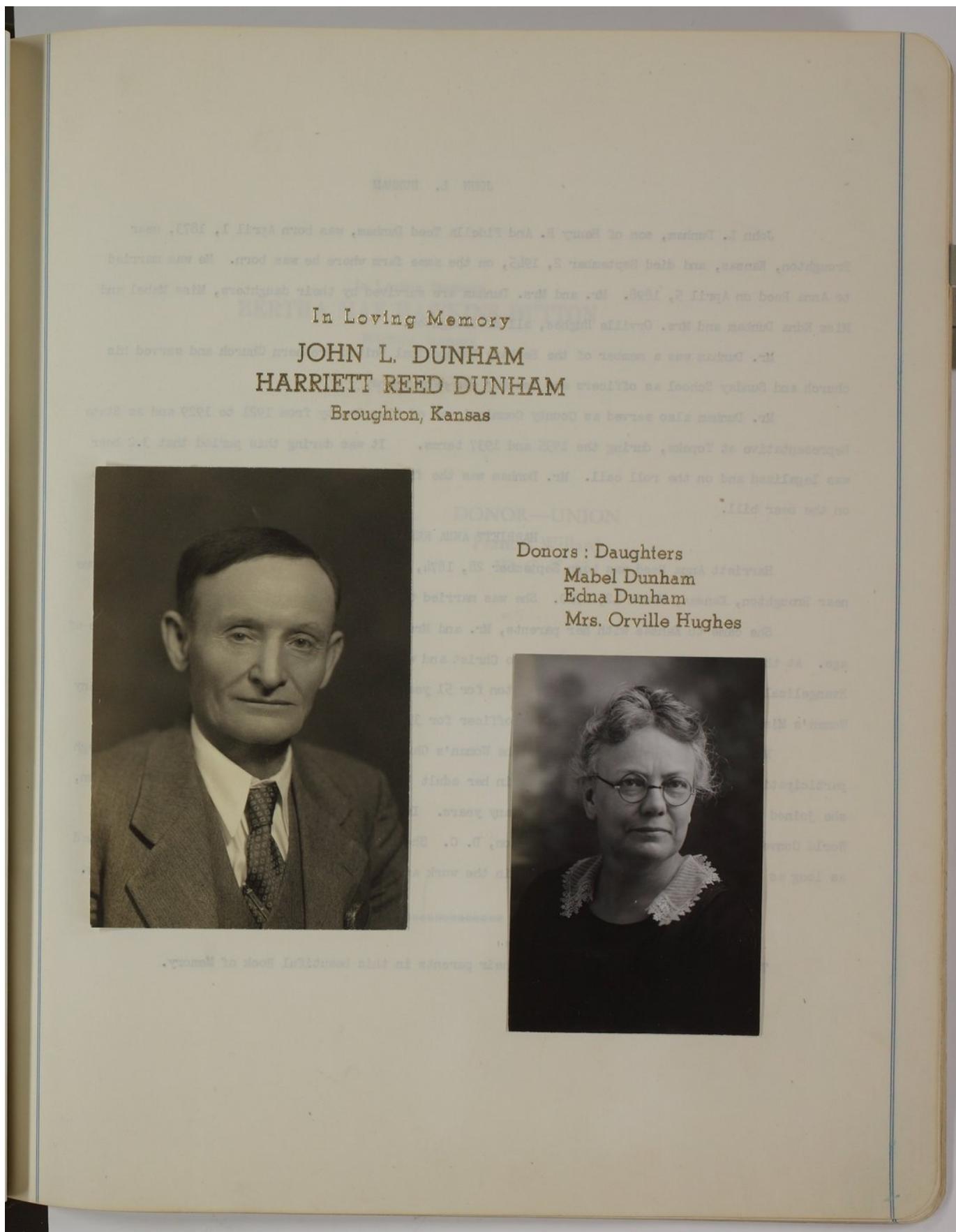
This beautiful tribute is placed in the Book of Memory by her daughter, Greta Drake.

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MEMORY OF JOHN L. DUNHAM

In 1886, John L. Dunham was born in a small town in Kansas. He grew up to be a successful businessman and a dedicated member of the Methodist Church. In 1905, he married Harriett Reed, and they had three children: Mabel, Edna, and Orville. They lived a happy life in Broughton, Kansas, until John passed away in 1930 at the age of 44.

In Loving Memory

John L. Dunham and his wife, Harriett, were kind and generous people who always put others before themselves. They will be missed by all who knew them.

JOHN L. DUNHAM

HARRIET REED DUNHAM

Broughton, Kansas

1930

DONOR—UNION

Donors : Daughters

Mabel Dunham

Edna Dunham

Mrs. Orville Hughes



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JOHN L. DUNHAM

John L. Dunham, son of Henry R. And Fidella Teed Dunham, was born April 1, 1873, near Broughton, Kansas, and died September 2, 1945, on the same farm where he was born. He was married to Anna Reed on April 5, 1898. Mr. and Mrs. Dunham are survived by their daughters, Miss Mabel and Miss Edna Dunham and Mrs. Orville Hughes, all of Broughton.

Mr. Dunham was a member of the Bethany Evangelical United Brethren Church and served his church and Sunday School as officers and teacher for many years.

Mr. Dunham also served as County Commissioner of Clay County from 1921 to 1929 and as State Representative at Topeka, during the 1935 and 1937 terms. It was during this period that 3.2 beer was legalized and on the roll call. Mr. Dunham was the first Representative to cast a negative vote on the beer bill.

HARRIETT ANNA REED DUNHAM

Harriett Anna Reed was born September 28, 1874, in Wampum, Pennsylvania and died at her home near Broughton, Kansas, March 12, 1950. She was married to John L. Dunham on April 5, 1898.

She came to Kansas with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Shearer Reed when two and one-half years of age. At the age of 22, she gave her heart to Christ and was a faithful member of the Bethany Evangelical United Brethren Church of Broughton for 51 years. She was a charter member of the Bethany Woman's Missionary Society and served as an officer for 35 years.

Mrs. Dunham became interested in the Woman's Christian Temperance Union in her youth through participation in the Speech contests. When in her adult life, a union was organized in her home town, she joined and served as its president for many years. In 1937, she was privileged to attend the World Convention of the W.C.T.U. in Washington, D. C. She also attended several State conventions and as long as her health permitted, was active in the work and always gave of her prayers and offerings.

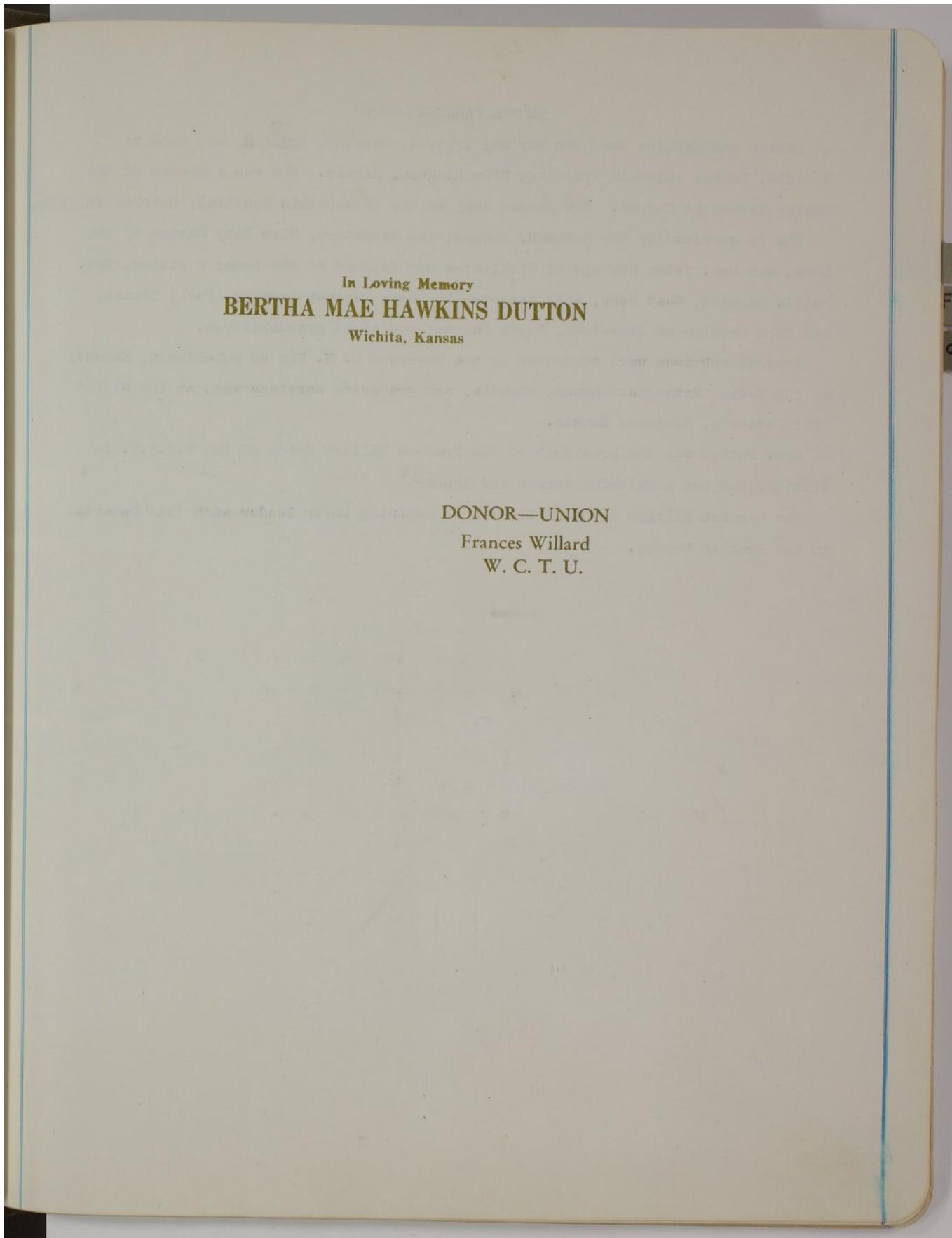
The three daughters are honoring their parents in this beautiful Book of Memory.

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In Loving Memory

BERTHA MAE HAWKINS DUTTON

Wichita, Kansas

DONOR—UNION

Frances Willard

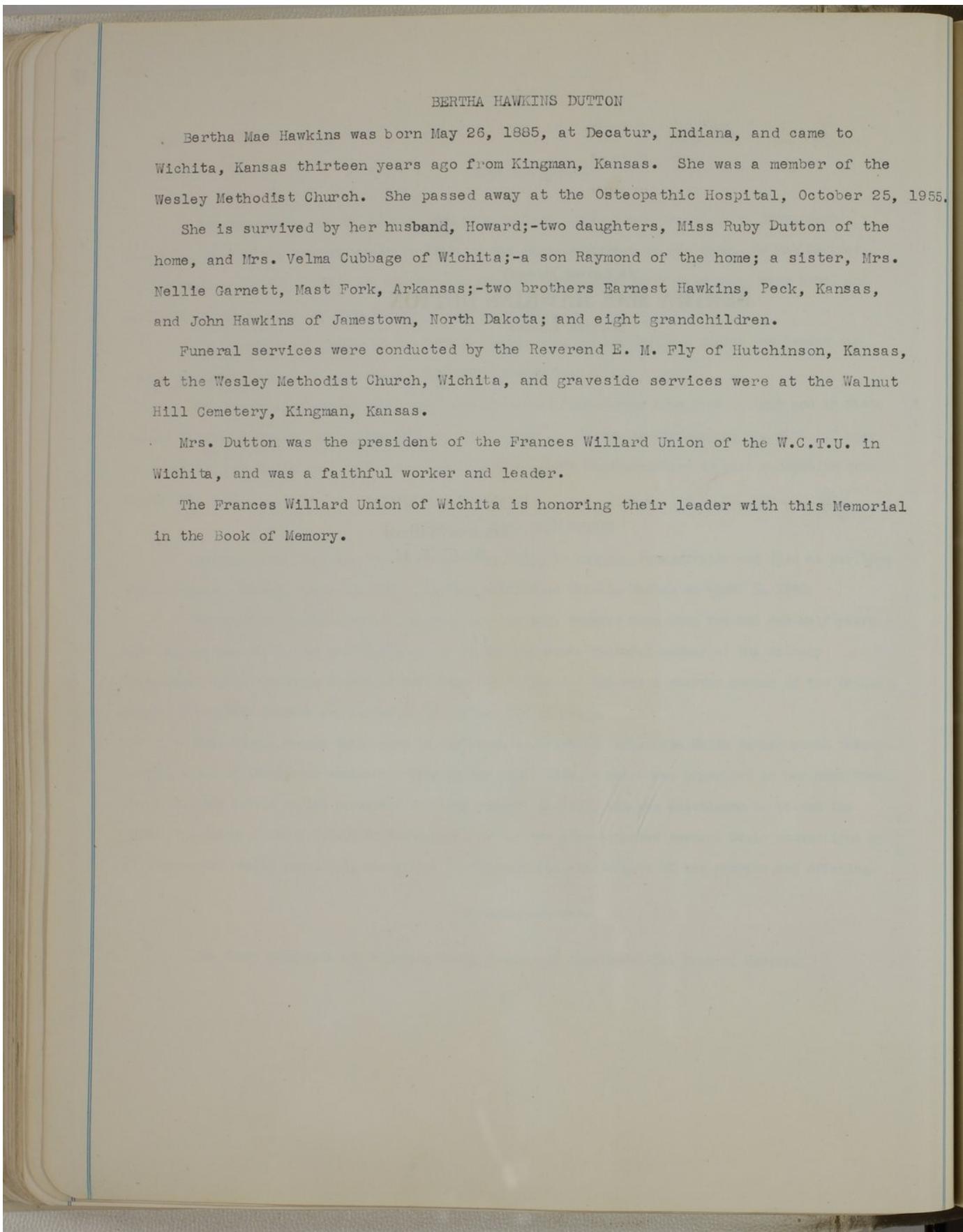
W. C. T. U.

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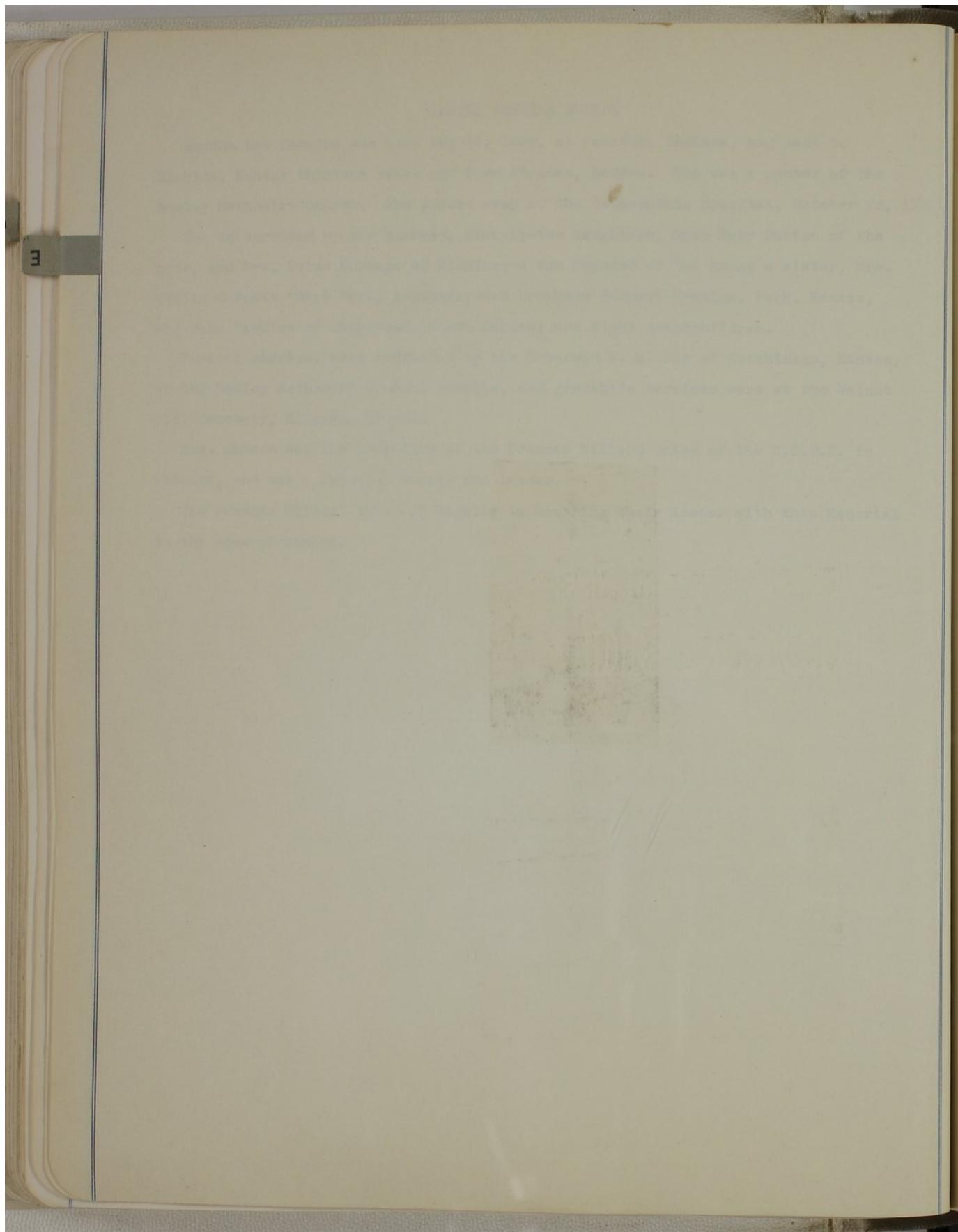


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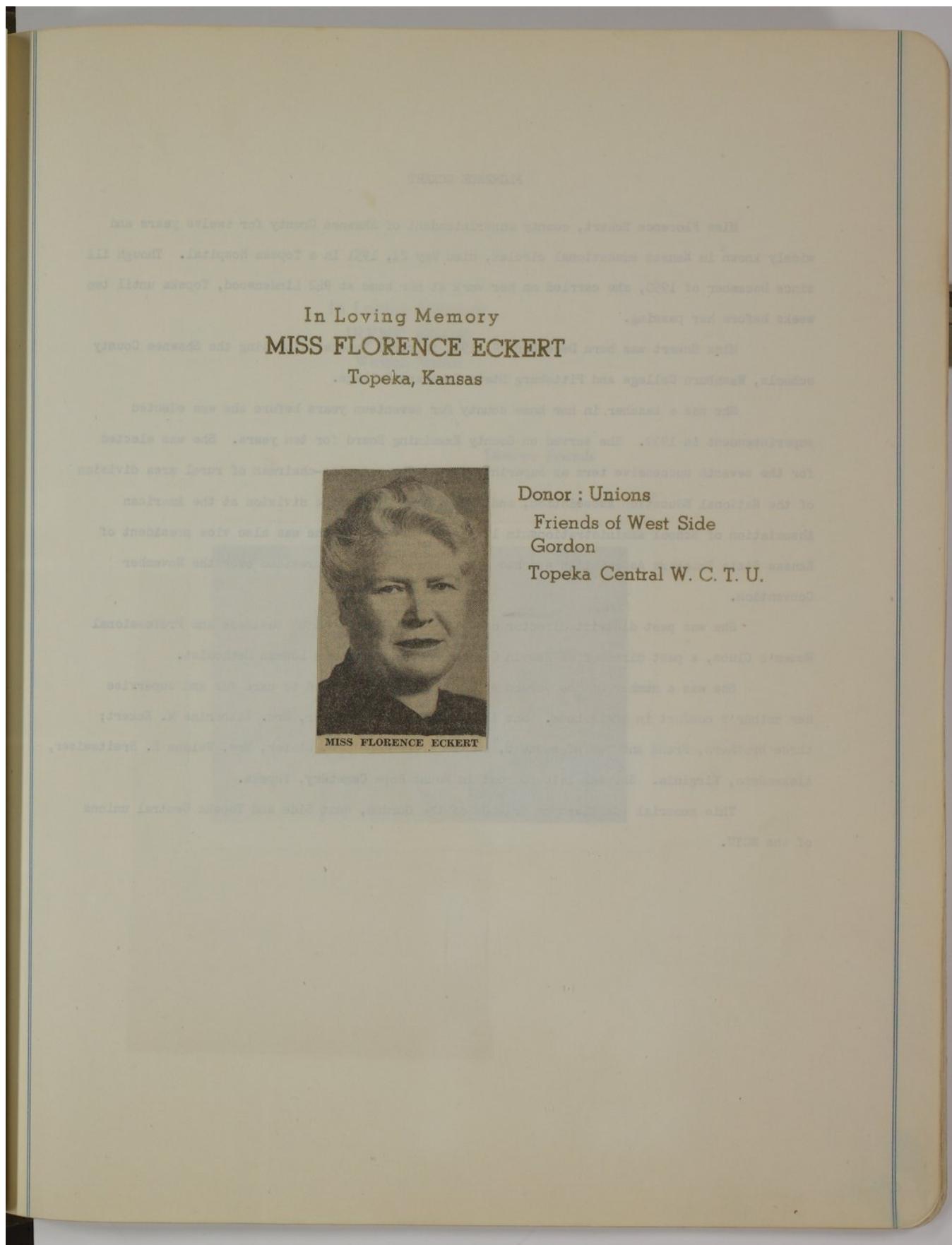


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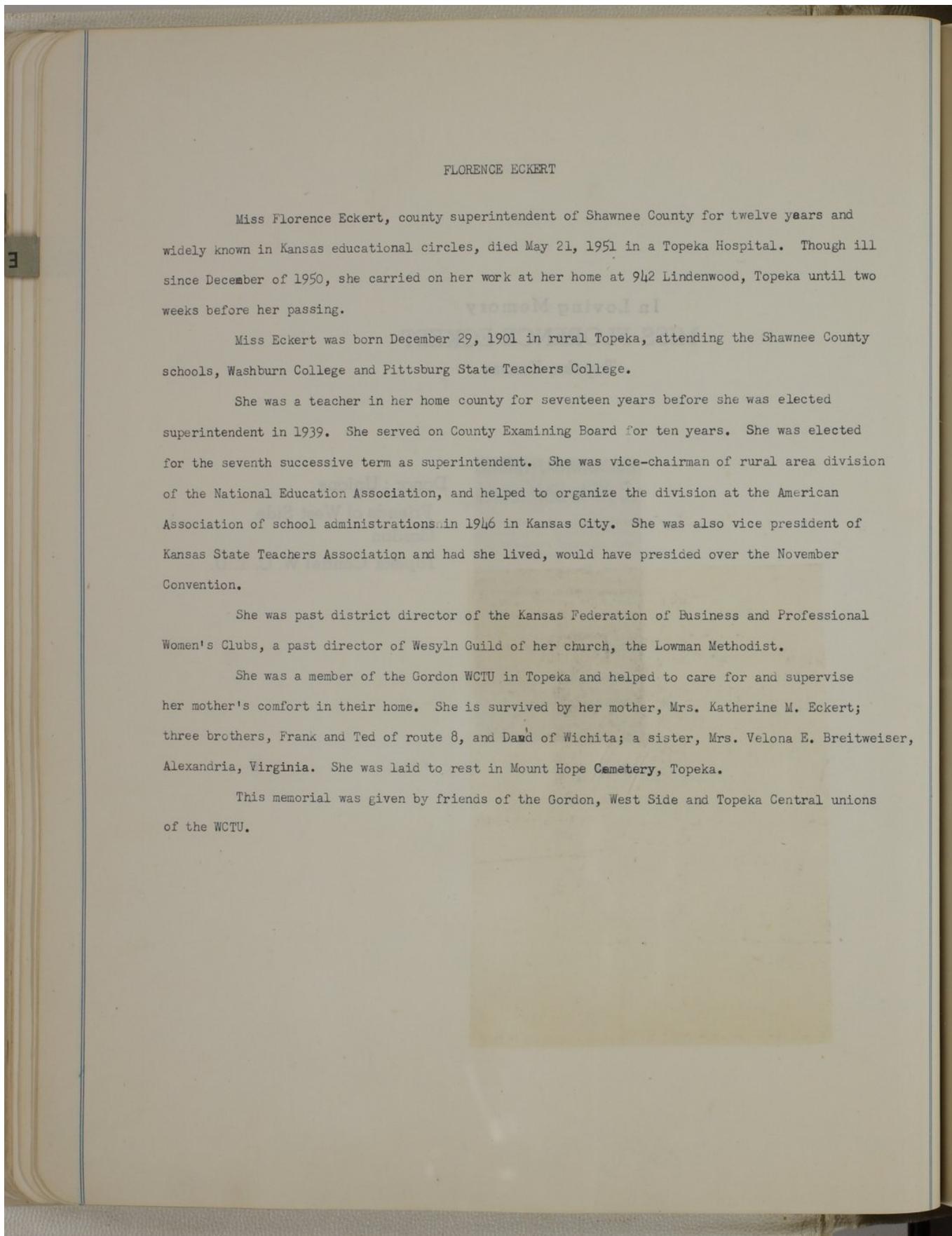


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FLORENCE ECKERT

Miss Florence Eckert, county superintendent of Shawnee County for twelve years and widely known in Kansas educational circles, died May 21, 1951 in a Topeka Hospital. Though ill since December of 1950, she carried on her work at her home at 942 Lindenwood, Topeka until two weeks before her passing.

Miss Eckert was born December 29, 1901 in rural Topeka, attending the Shawnee County schools, Washburn College and Pittsburg State Teachers College.

She was a teacher in her home county for seventeen years before she was elected superintendent in 1939. She served on County Examining Board for ten years. She was elected for the seventh successive term as superintendent. She was vice-chairman of rural area division of the National Education Association, and helped to organize the division at the American Association of school administrators in 1946 in Kansas City. She was also vice president of Kansas State Teachers Association and had she lived, would have presided over the November Convention.

She was past district director of the Kansas Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, a past director of Wesley Guild of her church, the Lowman Methodist.

She was a member of the Gordon WCTU in Topeka and helped to care for and supervise her mother's comfort in their home. She is survived by her mother, Mrs. Katherine M. Eckert; three brothers, Frank and Ted of route 8, and David of Wichita; a sister, Mrs. Velona E. Breitweiser, Alexandria, Virginia. She was laid to rest in Mount Hope Cemetery, Topeka.

This memorial was given by friends of the Gordon, West Side and Topeka Central unions of the WCTU.

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In Loving Memory

IRENE EGGE

Wichita, Kansas

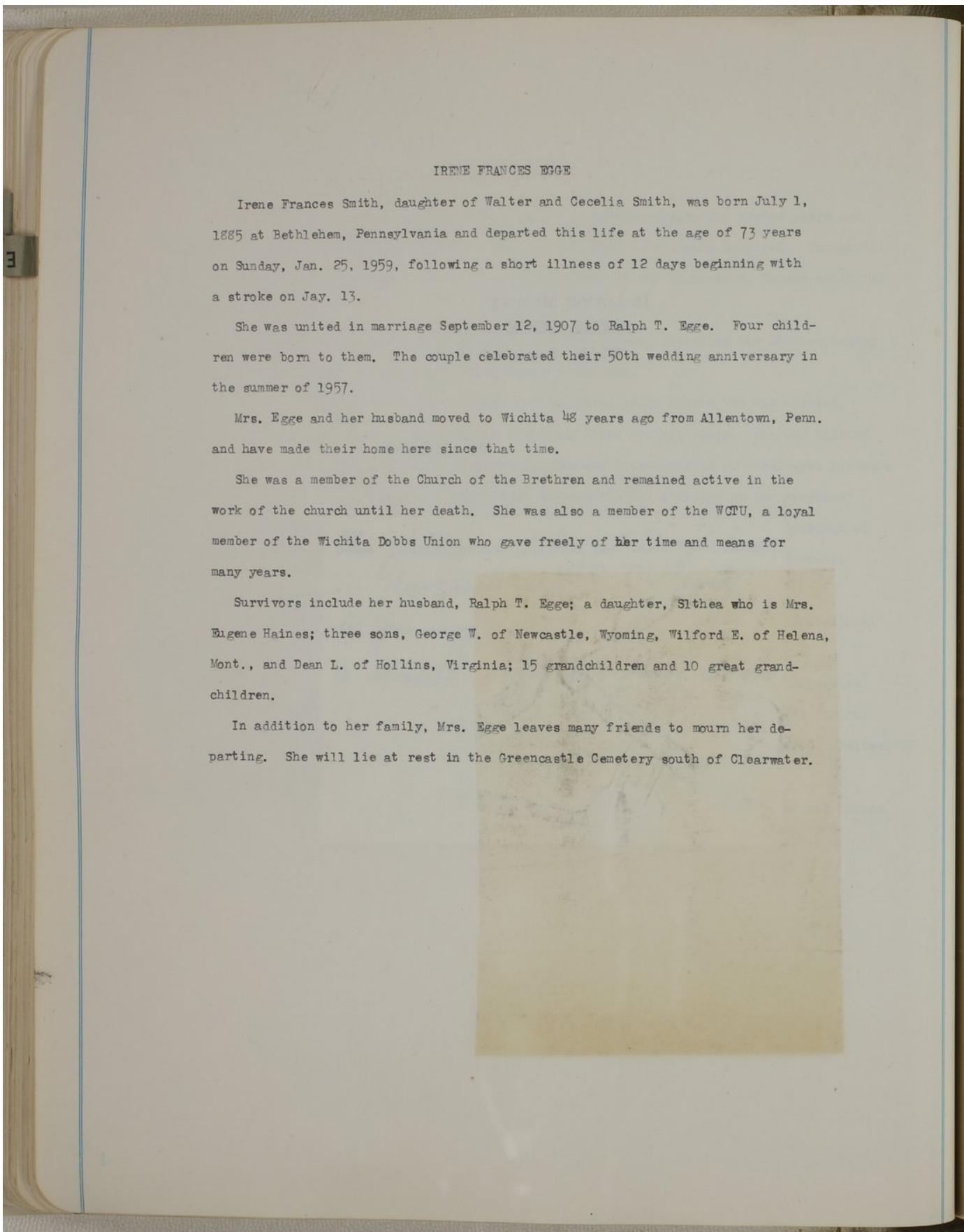
Donors: Friends



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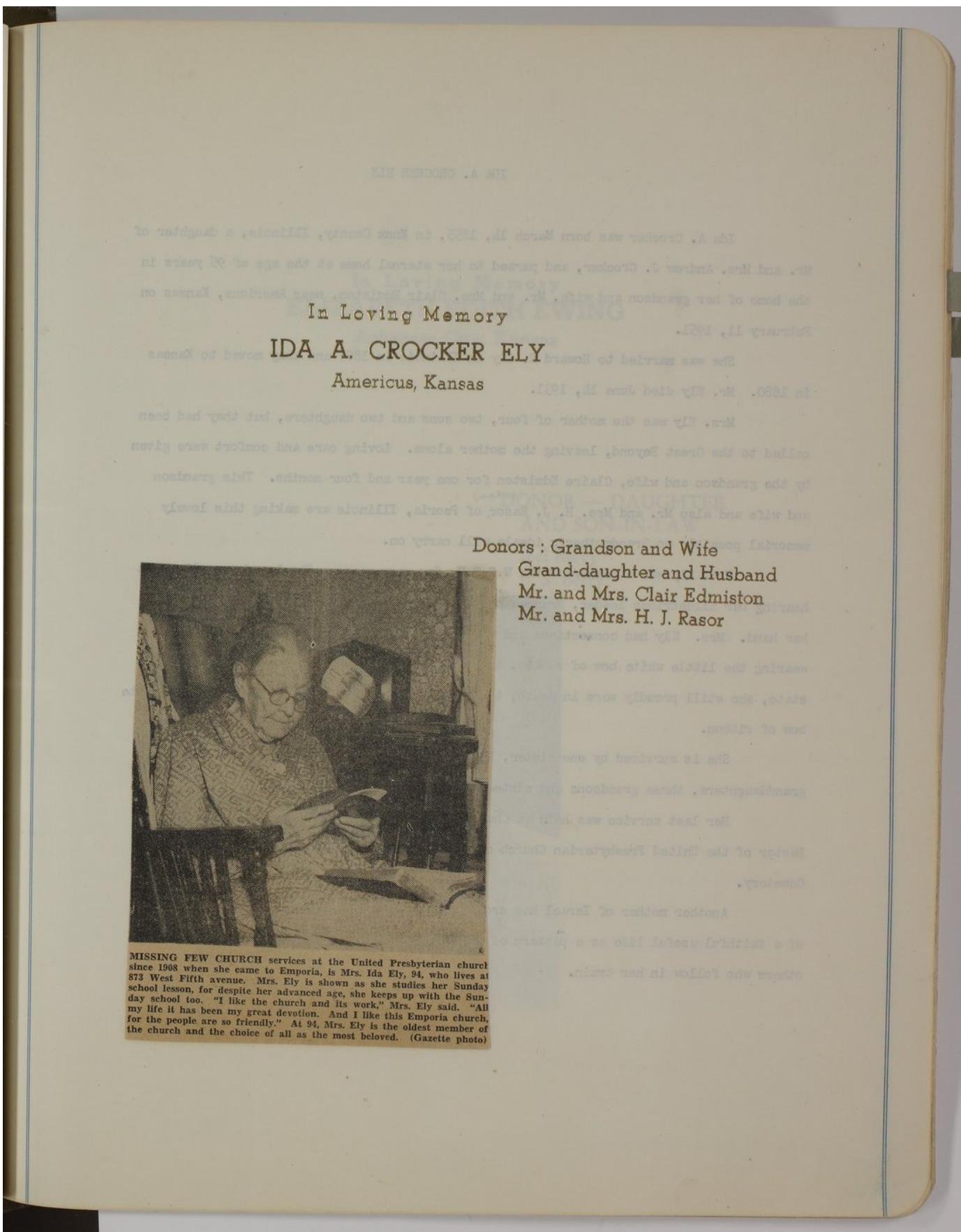


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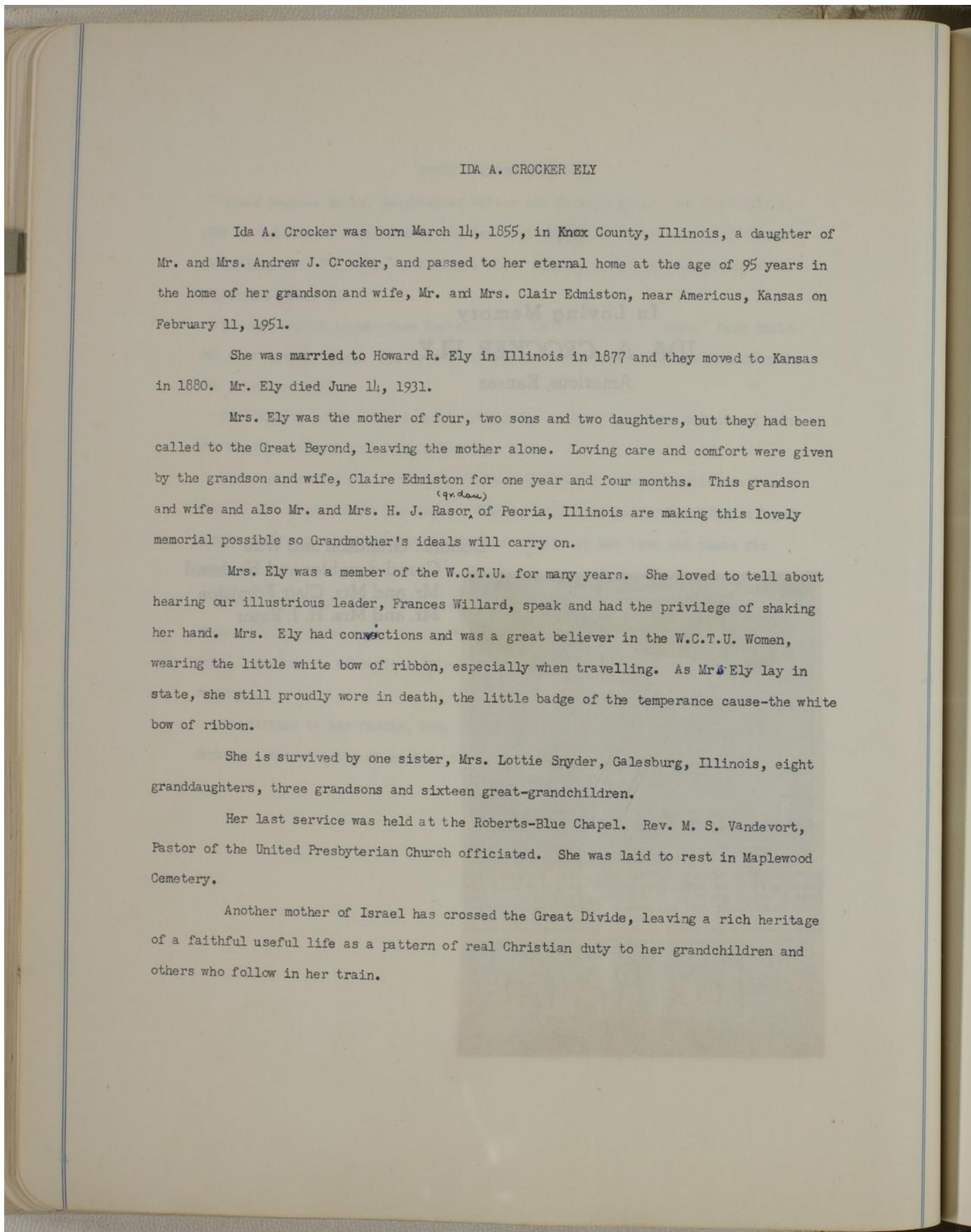
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IDA A. CROCKER ELY

Ida A. Crocker was born March 14, 1855, in Knox County, Illinois, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew J. Crocker, and passed to her eternal home at the age of 95 years in the home of her grandson and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Clair Edmiston, near Americus, Kansas on February 11, 1951.

She was married to Howard R. Ely in Illinois in 1877 and they moved to Kansas in 1880. Mr. Ely died June 14, 1931.

Mrs. Ely was the mother of four, two sons and two daughters, but they had been called to the Great Beyond, leaving the mother alone. Loving care and comfort were given by the grandson and wife, Claire Edmiston for one year and four months. This grandson and wife and also Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Rasor, of Peoria, Illinois are making this lovely memorial possible so Grandmother's ideals will carry on.

Mrs. Ely was a member of the W.C.T.U. for many years. She loved to tell about hearing our illustrious leader, Frances Willard, speak and had the privilege of shaking her hand. Mrs. Ely had convictions and was a great believer in the W.C.T.U. Women, wearing the little white bow of ribbon, especially when travelling. As Mr. Ely lay in state, she still proudly wore in death, the little badge of the temperance cause—the white bow of ribbon.

She is survived by one sister, Mrs. Lottie Snyder, Galesburg, Illinois, eight granddaughters, three grandsons and sixteen great-grandchildren.

Her last service was held at the Roberts-Blue Chapel. Rev. M. S. Vandevort, Pastor of the United Presbyterian Church officiated. She was laid to rest in Maplewood Cemetery.

Another mother of Israel has crossed the Great Divide, leaving a rich heritage of a faithful useful life as a pattern of real Christian duty to her grandchildren and others who follow in her train.