

Kansas Memory



Kansas Woman's Christian Temperance Union memory book

Section 15, Pages 421 - 450

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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covered with white bows with a blue background, which she enjoyed wearing to conventions.

Volunteers at Kansans For Life At Its Best have been the recipients of Mary Louise's baked treats. An especial favorite was the raisin bars.

It was a particularly sad time for the Capital Union when she was no longer able to participate. At each meeting all were concerned as to her condition. She was always lifted up in prayer for both her and Rev. Taylor. There are some verses in Habakkuk that go like this:

"Though the fig tree does not bud,
And the vine produce no grapes,
Yet, I will rejoice in the Lord.
I will be joyful in God my Savior."

Let me paraphrase this just a bit:

Though Mary Louise can no longer
tell us about legislation,
Though her finger can not
play beautiful music,
Yet, we will rejoice for the
time she spent with us,
And thank the Lord, our Savior.

CELEBRATING HER JOYFUL LIFE

By Sarah Boyd Jedlicka at the Enterprise Service, November 19, 1992

Mary Louise Taylor--a lilting name for a lovely lady whose very life was music to all who knew her.

I first met her when she attended a State WCTU meeting with Dick. He always came with information about legislature action.

When Capital City WCTU was organized, she was one of the founders and remained an integral part of the work the rest of her life.

Not long after she joined the WCTU, we persuaded her to become our State Legislative Director. That was a natural place for her, since she was so involved with Dick's work, anyway. She took the job with fear and trembling. Soon after she took that position, she was asked by National Headquarters to become the National Legislative Director. Speaking before a large audience was the most frightening part of the position to her, but after prayer and encouragement from her husband and the national officers, she accepted the position. Her writings on the subject were always comprehensive and to the point, showing what needed to be done to encourage both state and national legislators to make the right moves. She was loved by all the national officers and all who met her at the meetings. Her platform presentations were always given without fear and trembling.

Mary Louise was a joy to be around. She saw humor in the mundane and looked on the bright side of unfortunate situations. Her laughter was contagious always.

She was an accomplished musician and loved to play either the organ or piano. One year she was asked to be National Convention pianist. She often was accompanist to a soloist. As we were together, she often spoke of that group of youth who came to choir practice in her church at Topeka. She loved working with them and was always looking for new ways to interest them. Their uncertain attendance at church after they had practiced during the week, was always a challenge to her. But how she loved them!

We in the WCTU were blessed by her wisdom and insight, her music, her humor and her courage. We will miss this petite lady who had a great faith in her Heavenly Father. That faith gave her strength to wait to see what He had in store for her. As we continued to pray for her recovery, she said, "We'll just have to wait to see what He will do".

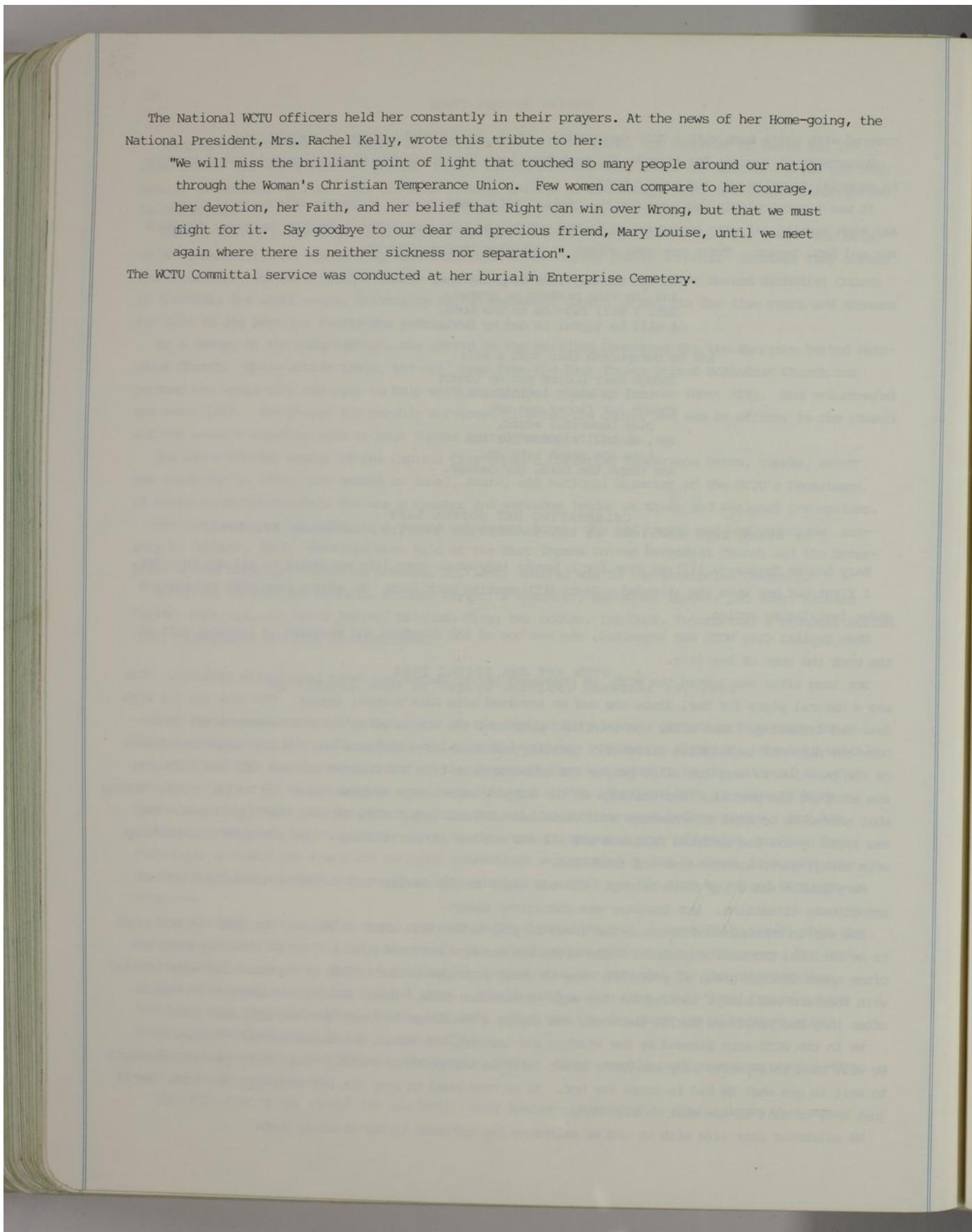
We celebrate her life with us and we celebrate her entrance to her Heavenly Home.

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The National WCTU officers held her constantly in their prayers. At the news of her Home-going, the National President, Mrs. Rachel Kelly, wrote this tribute to her:

"We will miss the brilliant point of light that touched so many people around our nation through the Woman's Christian Temperance Union. Few women can compare to her courage, her devotion, her Faith, and her belief that Right can win over Wrong, but that we must fight for it. Say goodbye to our dear and precious friend, Mary Louise, until we meet again where there is neither sickness nor separation".

The WCTU Committal service was conducted at her burial in Enterprise Cemetery.

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In Loving Memory

MRS. MERTON THISTLEWAITE
Tonganoxie, Kansas

Donors: Her Daughter and Husband,
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Scott

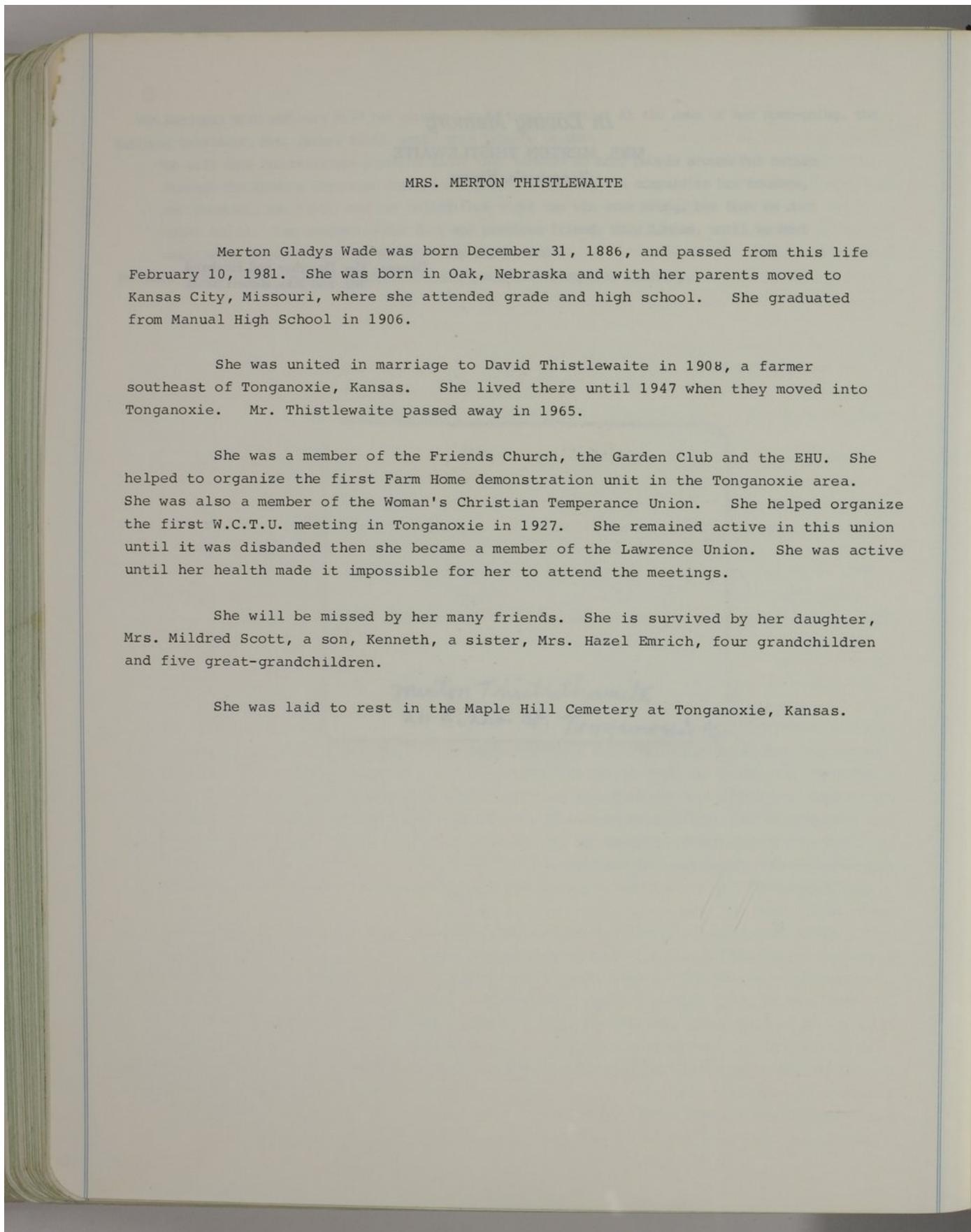


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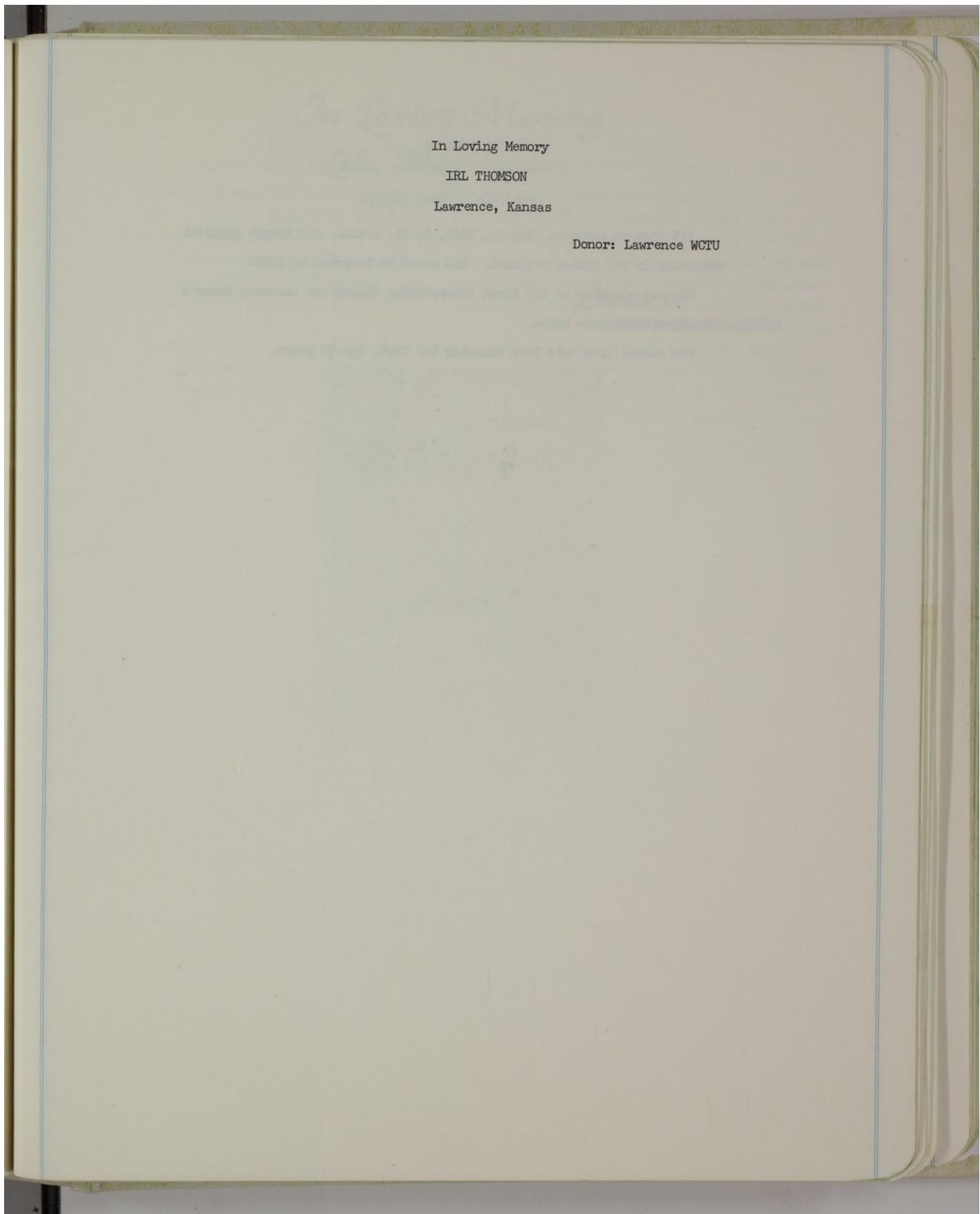


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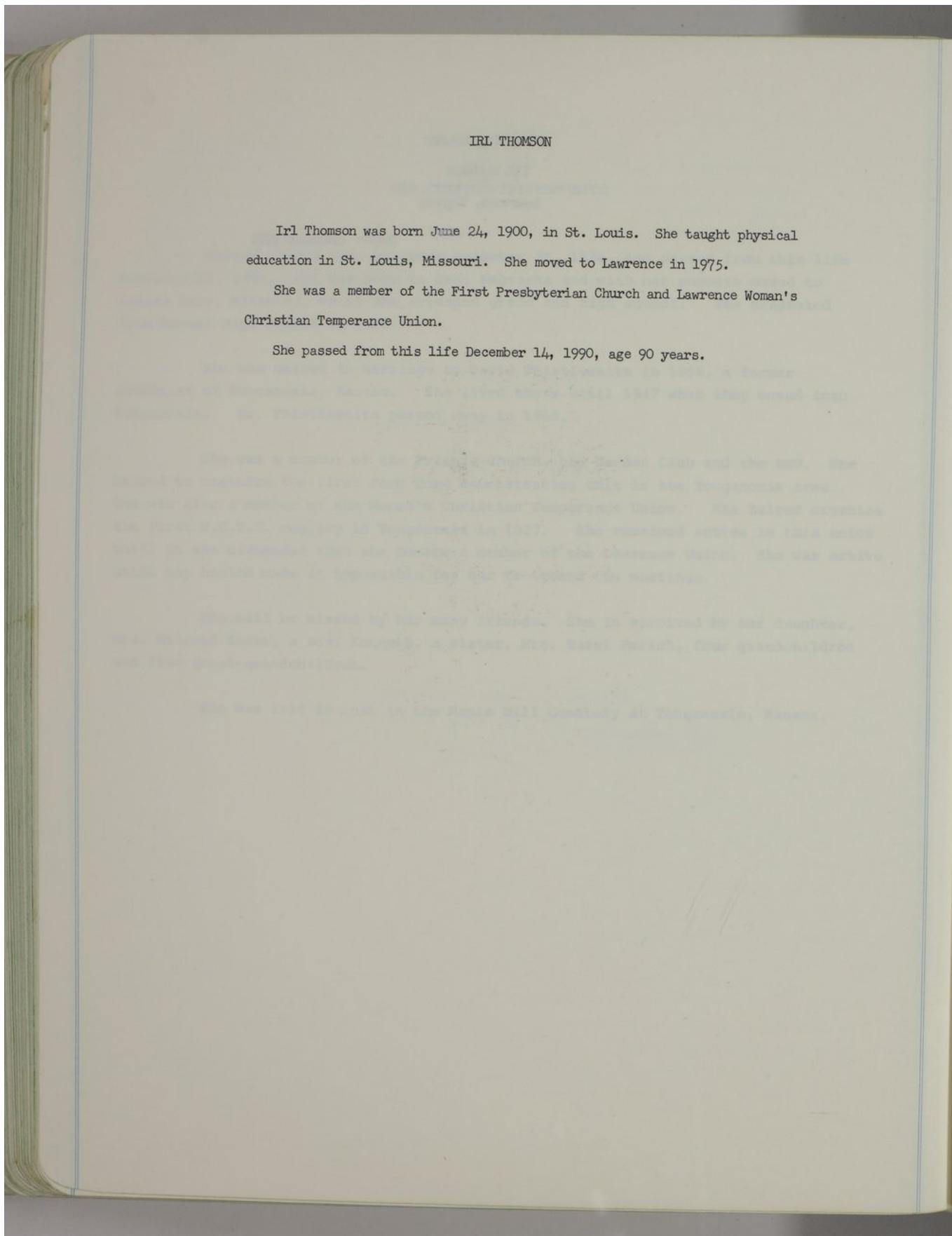


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IRL THOMSON

Irl Thomson was born June 24, 1900, in St. Louis. She taught physical education in St. Louis, Missouri. She moved to Lawrence in 1975.

She was a member of the First Presbyterian Church and Lawrence Woman's Christian Temperance Union.

She passed from this life December 14, 1990, age 90 years.

She was a member of the First Presbyterian Church and the W.C.T.U. She helped organize the First Presbyterian Federation unit in the Topeka area. She was also a member of the Kansas Christian Temperance Union. She helped organize the First W.C.T.U. meeting in Topeka in 1897. She remained active in this organization until 1920 when she became a member of the Kansas Union. She was active in organizing and supporting the Topeka W.C.T.U. meetings.

Survived by her sons, Charles, Bill, and George, a son, George, a daughter, Mrs. Margaret Jones, a son, George, a sister, Mrs. Hazel French, three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

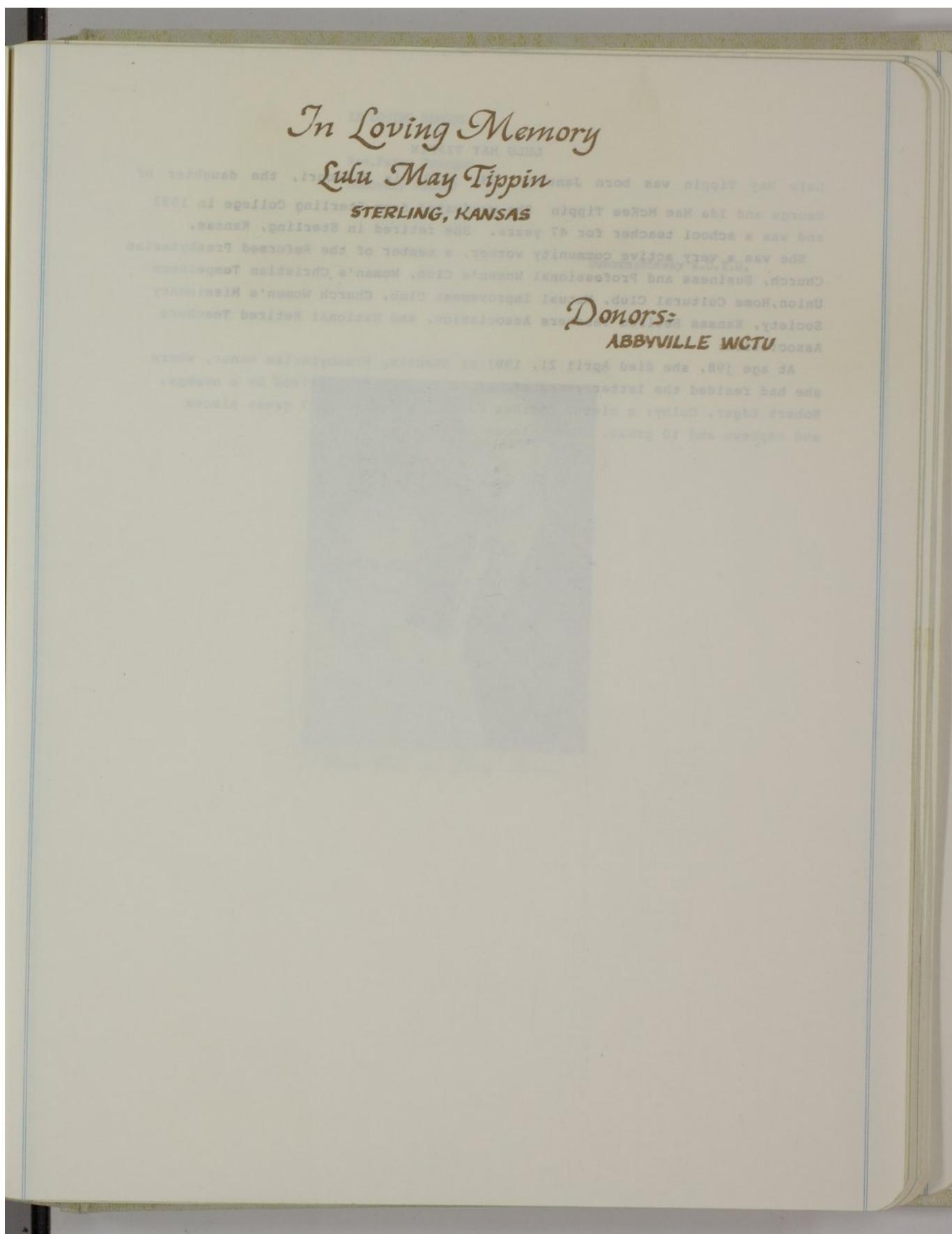
She was buried in the Eagle Hill Cemetery at Topeka, Kansas.

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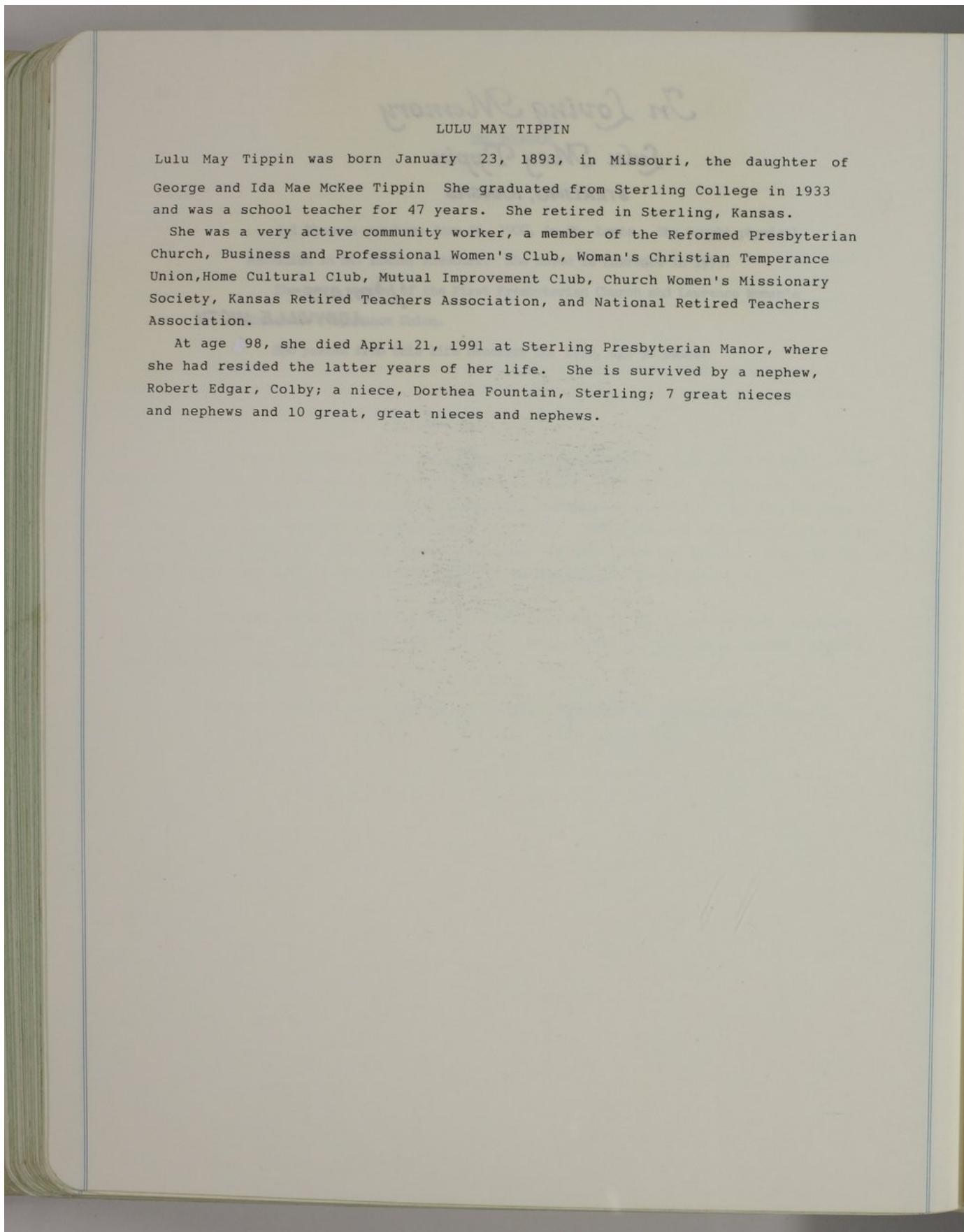
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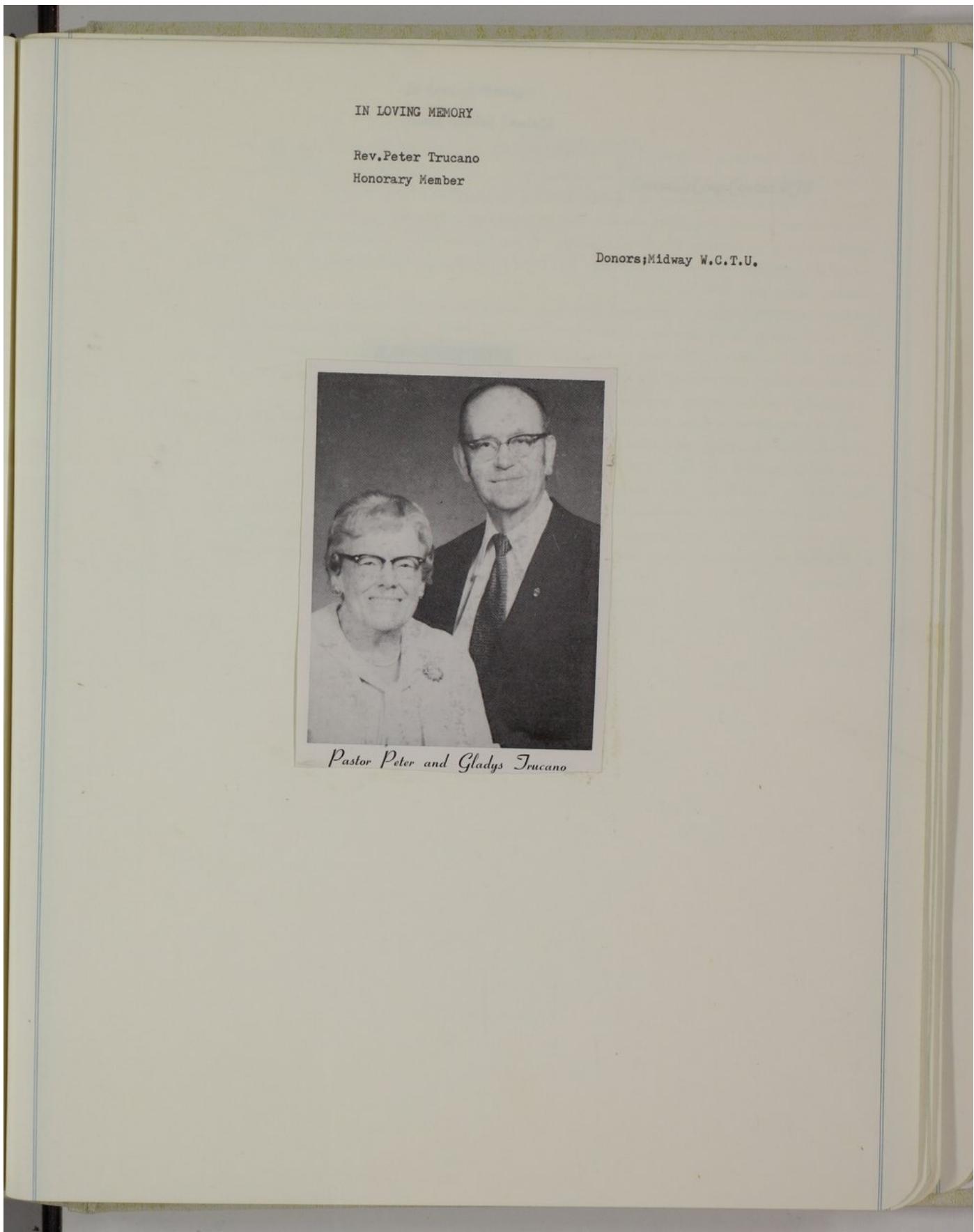


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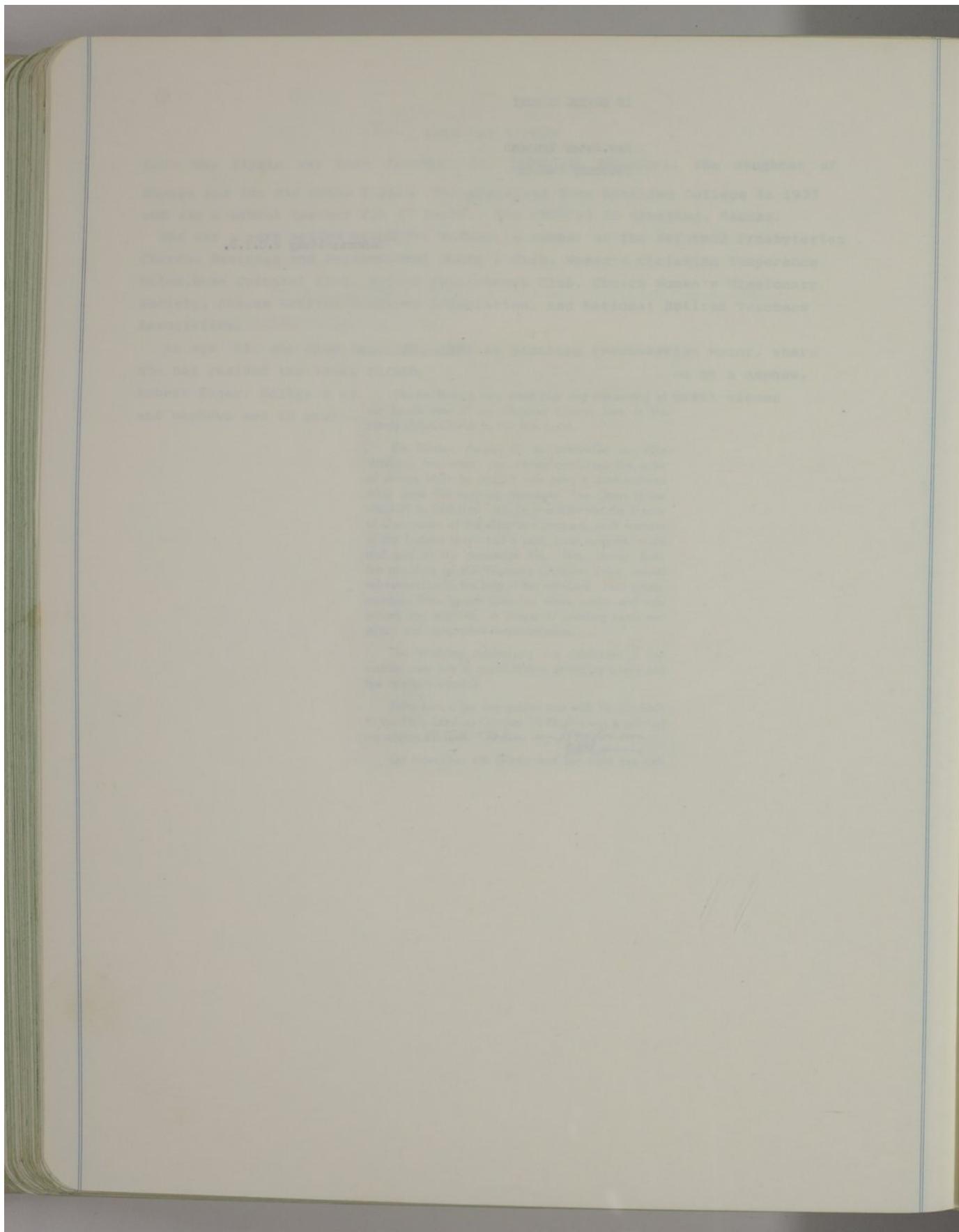


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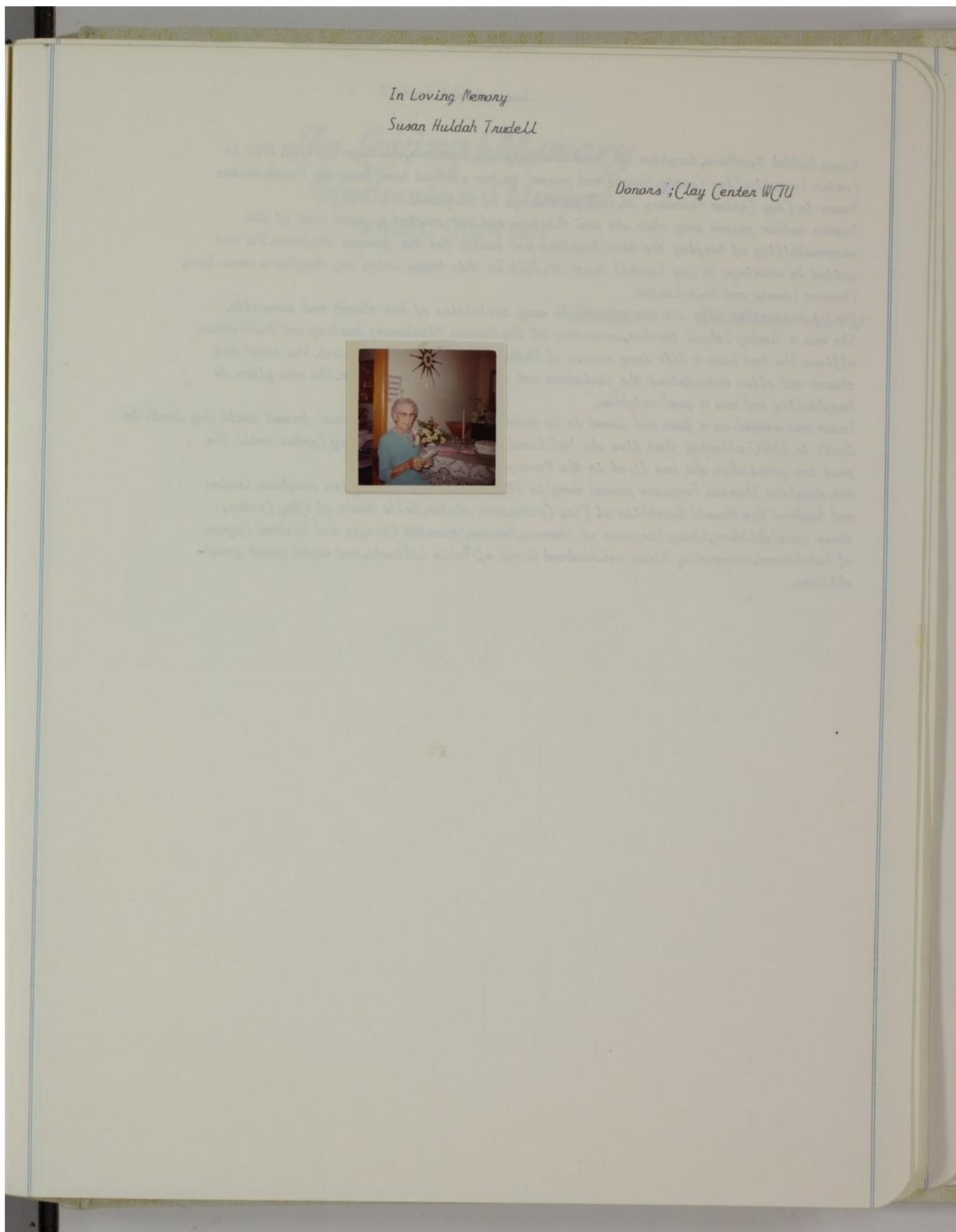


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In Loving Memory

Susan Hulda Trudell

Donors: Clay Center WCTU



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Susan Huldah Trudell

Susan Huldah Woodhams, daughter of James and Margaret Woodhams, was born July 22, 1892 in Exeter Township, Clay County, Kansas and passed to her eternal home from the Presbyterian Manor in Clay Center February 26, 1985 at the age of 92 years.

Susans mother passed away when she was thirteen and she carried a great deal of the responsibility of keeping the home together and caring for the younger children. She was united in marriage to Guy Trudell March 26, 1913. To this happy union two daughters were born, Theresa Lavone and Nola Lorine.

During her active life she was engaged in many activities of her church and community. She was a Sunday School teacher, secretary of the Womans Missionary Society and held other offices. She had been a life long member of Bethany Chapel Wesleyan Church. She loved her church and often entertained the ministers and their wives in her home. She was given to hospitality and was a good neighbor.

Susan was reared on a farm and loved to do farm work. She and her husband farmed until Guy's death in 1960. Following that time she had lived in her own home in Clay Center until the past two years when she has lived in the Preabyterian Manor.

Her daughter Theresa Ferguson passed away in 1951. She is survived by her daughter Lorine and husband Rev. Harold Hotchkiss of Clay Center; one sister, Belle Blake of Clay Center, three grandchildren, Larry Ferguson of Shawnee, Kansas, Jeanette Krenzin and husband Eugene of Hutchinson, Kansas; Kay Nixon and husband David of Pekin Illinois, and eight great grandchildren.

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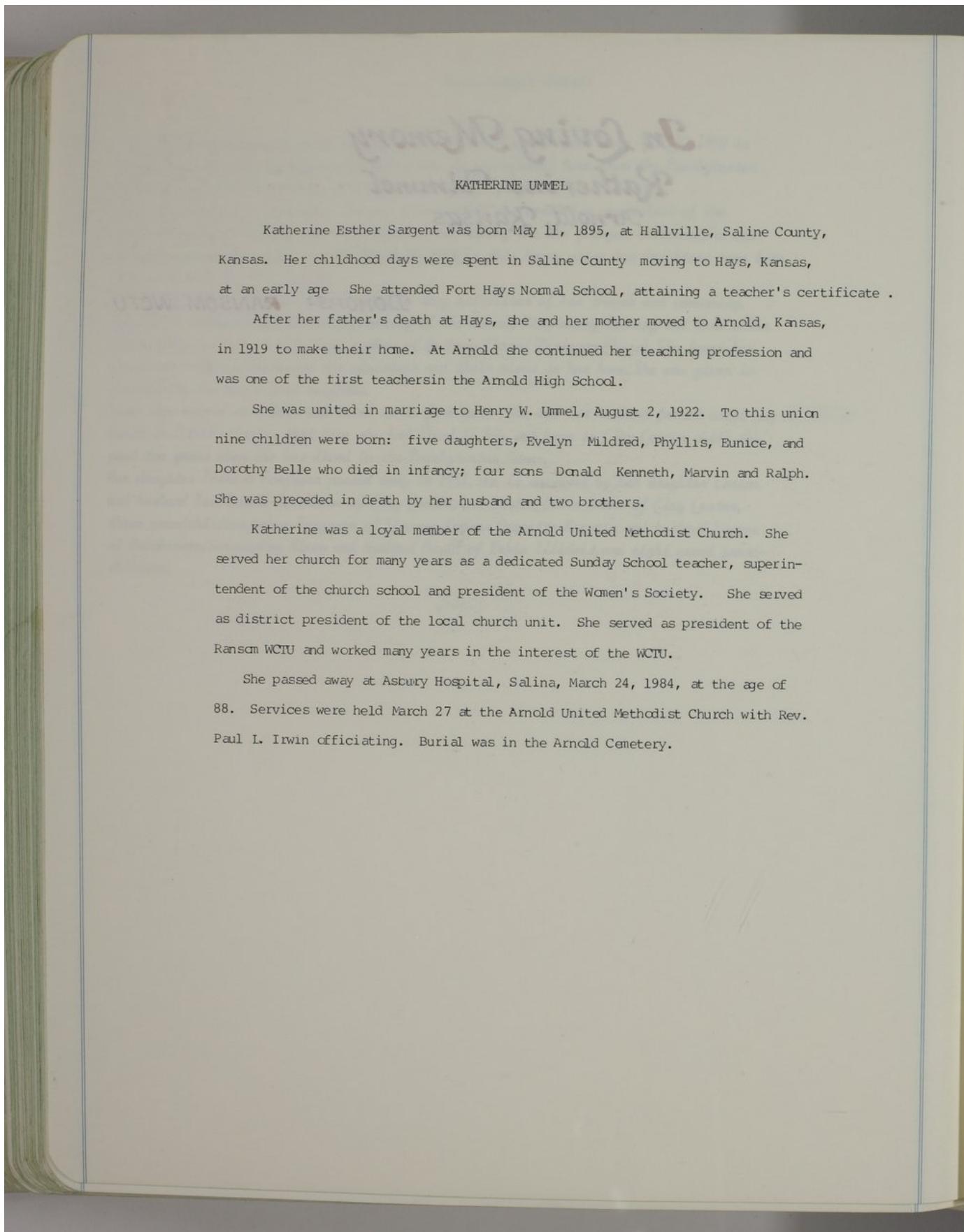
In Loving Memory
Katherine Ummel
Arnold, Kansas

Donors: RANSOM WCTU

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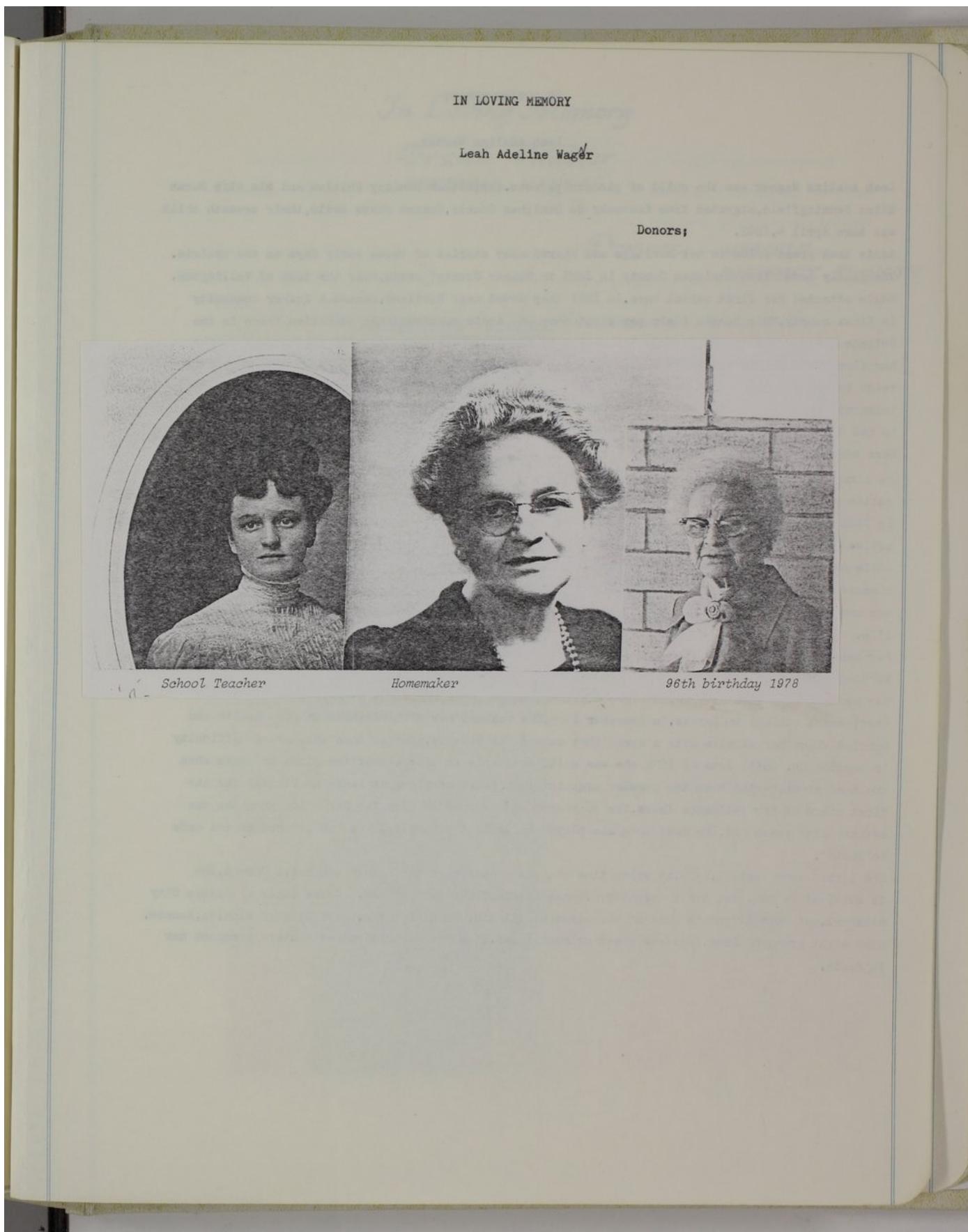


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IN LOVING MEMORY

Leah Adaline Wagner

Leah Adaline Wagner was the child of pioneer parents. Her father Lindsay Whitlow and his wife Sarah Eliza Benningfield, migrated from Kentucky to Doniphan County, Kansas where Addie, their seventh child was born April 4, 1882.

Addie took great pride in her heritage and shared many stories of those early days on the prairie. The family moved from Doniphan County in 1883 to Sumner County, Kansas, near the town of Wellington. Addie attended her first school here. In 1891 they moved near Haviland, Kansas, A Quaker community in Kiowa county. This became their permanent home and Addie continued her education there in the Friends Academy and at the Friends University in Wichita. She became a school teacher and taught her first year on the famous Marriage Ranch in western Kansas before returning to Haviland to teach in her home school. It was then she met Louis C. Wagner who was the station agent and telegraph operator for the railroad. By the time Lou and Addie were married September 15, 1907 he had become cashier of a bank in Hastings, Oklahoma, where they established their first home. Here Addie taught Sunday School, played the piano for Sunday School and Church. She Organized the first Christian Endeavor Society, in the local church. She also organized the children of cotton pickers who were a neglected group in the neighborhood.

In 1916 the family moved to Wichita, Kansas and then to Topeka in 1918 where Addie continued her active Christian life as a member of Lowman Memorial Methodist Church.

Addie never lost her thirst for knowledge. She took a four year course in Bible, enrolled in art classes when she was in her fifties, and was constantly buying books and magazines and continuing her musical education. Her greatest devotion was always to a study of the Bible and the Christian life.

For many years she was an active member and officer of The Womens Christian Temperance Union, Working especially with junior age boys and girls temperance clubs.

Her husband died July 26, 1957. She continued in her home for eight years, then moved to the retirement village in Lenexa, in December 1965. She reached her 96th birthday in good health and hurried about her affairs with a speed that caused her friends, younger than she, having difficulty in keeping up. Until June of 1978 she was still available to play either the piano or organ when the need arose, having been the regular organist for chapel services at Lakeview Village for the first years of her residence there. She purchased and learned to play the harmonica when she was seventy five years old. The last song she played while in the hospital was "He Touched Me and Made Me Whole".

She passed away April 6, 1984, at which time she was a member of the Lenexa Methodist Church. She is survived by two sons and a daughter; C. Verne Wager of Haviland Kansas, L. Verle Wager of Kansas City Missouri, and Ruth Elizabeth Junk of Bloomington, Illinois. One sister Mrs. Grace Sink of Wichita, Kansas. Also eight grandchildren, fourteen great grandchildren. Five brothers and three sisters preceded her in death.

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In Loving Memory

Frank Walter
BENDENA, KANSAS

*Donors: HIMSELF
DISTRICT 12 WCTU*

HIAWATHA, KANSAS WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1983 DAILY SENDER



JUST AN ORDINARY FELLOW — That's what Frank Walter said about himself. His patient, indomitable spirit shines through despite a life of struggle. Crippled since the age of three-months, he has overcome his handicap in various ways and today, at age 65, he continues to fight against his physical disabilities.

Frank was permanently disabled in 1898 when a tired girl dropped him after tossing him playfully into the air. The baby's spine was permanently damaged as a result of the impact with the ground.

Walter got his first wheelchair in 1908 when he was ten-years-old. He still has it today, but the wheelchair never stopped Frank Walter.

His family moved to Brown County in 1908. Frank says that one day a man came by his father's

farm in Republic County and asked him what he wanted for it. The elder Walter told the man \$3,000 more than he paid for it. According to Frank, the old man never thought the man would take him up on the offer, but he did and so the family moved to Brown County.

With the encouragement of his parents Frank attended school by mail. The teachers at Effingham, where the family finally settled, assisted him. They called his assignments to him over the telephone.

Walter completed his homework with the use of a typewriter and desk. He still has those too. He remembers that he got the desk from Montgomery Ward's for \$11 in 1908. Frank still pecks out correspondence on the old typewriter although ar-

thritis has taken its toll on him.

On May 28, 1920 Frank Walter achieved one of the brightest moments of his life when he graduated from high school.

"It gave me my chance in life," Walter said. "That high school education meant so much to me."

Another important event soon followed his graduation. Frank said that a man named Harman, who had also become crippled as the result of a fall from a ladder, invited him to try selling insurance. Frank took the man up on the suggestion and soon was an independent agent for five insurance companies.

He was successful in the venture. So successful that he was able to save over \$10,000.

(Continued From Page 1)

Argentina. The business had two public sales a year.

Walter remembers that in 1918 the business hit an all time record sale day when they did \$18,000 worth of business, but Frank also remembers the bad times when a sale netted \$500 in 1934.

It becomes obvious that two things sustain Frank Walter as he continues down the road of life. One is his faith in God and the other is his memories of a loving family.

Frank Walter's faith in God is very much alive. He said that God has helped him through life. He adds with emphasis, "Especially now."

Frank has a watch that was given to him in 1915 by his parents. It is inscribed on the back with the name of his mother in her hand writing. It was a reward for getting out of his wheelchair and using his crutches. In the forward to his little book, Frank denies that much of what he says is related to his own experience, but a couple of sentences stand out.

"Sickness is never wanted, but it comes, more or less, to all of us and so we must be resolved to accept our portion humbly and cheerfully, never doubting the goodness of our Lord Jesus...If we count our blessings we will still find



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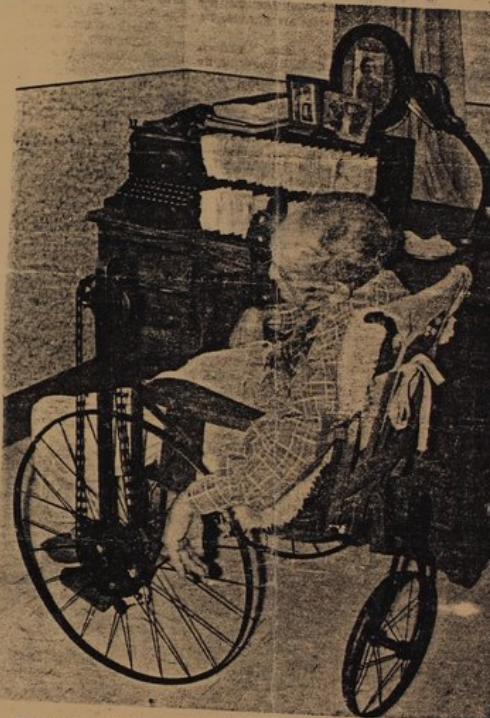
In Loving Memory

Frank Walter
BENDENA, KANSAS

DONORS: HIMSELF
DISTRICT 12 WCTU

... his spirit shines through despite a life of struggle. Crippled since the age of three-months, and now suffering with arthritis and speech problems, Walter goes on about his life with a positive outlook and a faith in God.—Staff Photo.

HOWARD FRANKLIN WALTER — Frank, as he is called, has overcome handicaps all his life as he strove to be a self-supporting individual. Today, at age 85, he continues to operate a small insurance business from his room at Oak Ridge. His Bible, family pictures, typewriter, and client's insurance policies sit atop his 1908 Montgomery Ward desk.—Staff Photo.



was ten-years-old. He still has it today, but the wheelchair never stopped Frank Walter. His family moved to Brown County in 1908. Frank says that one day a man came by his father's

(Continued From Page 1)
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Frank Walter's faith in God is very much alive. He said that God has helped him through life. He adds with emphasis, "Especially now."

"Everyone should be a Christian," Frank said, "but they aren't." Asked if he recommended daily prayer, he replied, "No, hourly prayer."

In 1962 Frank Walter wrote a pamphlet called "An Ideal Home Life." He said he didn't know where the ideas came from, but he had observed families over the years in selling insurance and he thought he had a few bits of helpful advice to offer.

Frank has a watch that was given to him in 1915 by his parents. It is inscribed on the back with the name of his mother in her hand writing. It was a reward for getting out of his wheelchair and using his crutches. In the forward to his little book, Frank denies that much of what he says is related to his own experience, but a couple of sentences stand out.

"Sickness is never wanted, but it comes, more or less, to all of us and so we must be resolved to accept our portion humbly and cheerfully, never doubting the goodness of our Lord Jesus....If we count our blessings we will still find that we have much to be thankful for."

When one meets Howard Franklin Walter, you feel those words come alive in a person.

JOBS
CARS
APARTMENTS
REAL ESTATE
PLUG INTO CLASSIFIEDS
742-2111

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Kansas Woman's Christian Temperance Union memory book

FRANK WALTER

Howard Franklin Walter was born May 20, 1898, the son of H. B. and Fanny Walter.

Frank was permanently disabled at three months of age when a hired girl dropped him after tossing him playfully into the air.

Frank got his first wheelchair when he was ten years old. His family moved to Brown County in 1908. With the encouragement of his parents, Frank attended school by mail. The teachers at Effingham, where the family finally settled, assisted him by calling his assignments to him over the telephone. He completed his homework with the use of a typewriter and desk. On May 28, 1920, Frank achieved one of the brightest moments of his life when he graduated from high school.

Soon after his graduation, a man named Harman, who had also become crippled as the result of a fall from a ladder, invited him to try selling insurance. Frank took the man up on the suggestion and soon was an independent agent for five insurance companies. He was very successful in the venture, and was able to save \$4,000 by 1930. He used that money to pay off the mortgage on the family farm in the worst years of the depression.

Frank had two brothers and a sister. The boys died in infancy, but his sister, Ruth, lived with him and cared for him for 47 years. He paid her half of his insurance commissions for driving him to his clients and taking care of him. Both he and Ruth were active members of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union. After Ruth's death in 1978, Frank moved to Oak Ridge Acres in Hiawatha where he lived until his death December 14, 1990.

In 1962, Frank wrote a booklet entitled, "The Ideal Christian Home." His Christian witness is revealed in these two quotations from the booklet:

"The ideal home is where Christ is worshipped and obeyed and where there is love, kindness, sympathy, harmony and companionship for all members in a congenial, Christian well-ordered home; where husband and wife are real companions in every phase of life; where alcoholic beverages and tobacco and habit-forming drugs are not used by members of the home..."

"Sickness is never wanted, but it comes, more or less, to all of us and so we must be resolved to accept our portion humbly and cheerfully, never doubting the goodness of our Lord Jesus...If we count our blessings we will still find that we have much to be thankful for."

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In Loving Memory

BEATRICE G. WALTON

ElDorado, Kansas

Donors: ElDorado W.C.T.U.



Mrs. Beatrice Walton

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BEATRICE G. WALTON

Beatrice Dunham, daughter of F.M. and Daisy McMahon Dunham was born July 4, 1906, at Hamilton, Kansas. She was united in marriage to Monroe L. Walton of Eureka on November 24, 1936. A son and a daughter was born to this union. She lived in Butler and Greenwood Counties most of her lifetime.

She was self-employed as a professional Seamstress. She was employed to make formals for sixteen Miss America contestants and for two or three Miss Kansas contestants. She also was employed for a time with the Beaman Upholstery Company in ElDorado. Her husband preceded her in death in 1969. Her daughter, Mary Walton (a blind gospel singer) has sung on the radio.

She was a member of the ElDorado W.C.T.U., serving as Vice President at the time of her death. She had served as Citizenship Director, Legislation Director and President of the local Union in the past.

She was called home on January 18, 1980, and was laid to rest in the Sunset Lawns Cemetery at ElDorado, Kansas. She will be greatly missed by her daughter, Mary, three sisters, two brothers and many friends.

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In Loving Memory

Helen Corrine Foster Ward

NESS CITY, KANSAS

Donors:

SISTER, MRS. LOIS MORRELL



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HELEN CORRINE FOSTER WARD

Helen Corrine Foster Ward was born in Ness County, Kansas, July 8, 1902. She was the daughter of Charles Daniel and Sarah J. Foster, being one of a family of ten children.

She attended a country school and the Ness City High School, graduating in 1919. Her State Normal Training grades were high enough to qualify her to teach in the country schools. She completed her first term of school teaching before she could receive her teaching certificate as the requirement was to be eighteen to qualify. For forty years her life was devoted to the education of grade school children, nine years were in country schools and thirty-one years in the second grade in the Ness City schools. Her retirement came as the result of failing health.

From the end of the first school term, her vacations were spent pursuing advanced teaching methods at Fort Hays Normal School (now Fort Hays State University). She attained her Life Teaching Certificate in Primary Education from Fort Hays Normal School.

Helen was a member of the First Baptist Church of Ness City; a Life Member of Prudence Rebekah Lodge, a Past Noble Grand of that order, and a member of Delta Kappa Gamma Teachers Sorority.

On February 4, 1965, Helen was united in marriage to Maurice A. Ward. A few months later she lost Maurice, who became a victim of cancer. The couple began their new life together by taking the blueprints they had drawn for a new home and began building it at 401 Franklin Street. Helen supervised the construction and when it was finished and Maurice had gone home to be with the Lord, she continued to live there until her home-going May 9, 1985.

Helen loved Old Settlers Reunion and was preparing to open her home on June 12 to a family reunion of some thirty-three members.

She was a friend and kindly neighbor to everyone, a devoted and understanding companion, a genial hostess to anyone who entered her home, and when she entertained her family for three generations.

Helen was also preceded in death by her parents; brothers, Malcom, Dell, Dan and Wayne; sisters, Dana and Sally. She is survived by her sisters, Mrs. Marian Justus of Wichita, Kansas, and Mrs. Lois Morrell of San Diego, California, and a host of nieces and nephews.

A Helen Ward Memorial Fund has been established at the First State Bank of Ness City, Kansas, for Ness City graduates to attend Fort Hays State University.

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In Loving Memory

Helen V. Weede
STERLING, KANSAS

Donor: STERLING WCTU

...to examine Iscahidli is wiseg and imbute a new and essential knowledge in me,
...planned, took or gave birth to... Now you are well informed of my well
...done and natural talents and to trust and aid me
...and your talents in spreading a new cause, WCTU like YWCA work
...and will... continue to do my best for the cause of temperance and for the
...of education among us all... to further benefit a



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HELEN V. WEEDE

Miss Helen V. Weede graduated from Sterling College in 1923. She taught one year at Louisburg, Kansas, then was a student two years at Biblical Seminary of New York, in preparation for missionary work. She first went to Ezel, Kentucky, under the Home Board of the United Presbyterian Church.

From 1927 until 1967, Helen was a missionary in Pakistan. During that time she received the Union Signal from the Light Line Union subscription. She also used WCTU films in both elementary and high schools as they became available in a planned circuit of schools.

Upon retirement, Helen returned to Sterling, where she resided at the Presbyterian Manor. She served nine years as local president and eight years as district treasurer of the WCTU. In 1977 she was a voting delegate at the National Convention in Springfield, Illinois. She helped several years at the literature booth at the State Fair in Hutchinson. She earned a reading award from National.

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In Loving Memory

MRS. ETHEL WENGER

Abilene, Kansas

Donor: Her Friend, Mrs. Emma Crocker



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MRS. ETHEL WENGER

H. Ethel Haynes Wenger was born April 25, 1896 in Abilene, Kansas, the daughter of George and Josie Fernbaugh Haynes. She graduated from the Normal Training Course of the Abilene High School in 1914. After teaching school for three years, she attended Messiah Bible College at Grantham, Pennsylvania.

She was married to David S. Wenger on February 16, 1921. He was the superintendent of the Messiah Orphanage at Grantham. Ethel had worked here while going to college as well as after their marriage. Experiences with the fifty children included caring for many of them through a seige of whooping cough and diphteria.

In 1923, the Wengers moved back to Abilene where they raised four children, the oldest being twins. Their names are Wilma, Wilmer, Miriam and Virgil. Mr. Wenger worked as a maintenance supervisor at McKinley School for some years and later at Belle Springs Creamery. Mrs. Wenger was a Sunday School teacher, but it was Mr. Wenger who had the outstanding record of thirty-eight years perfect Sunday School attendance, and this was perfect inasmuch as not one Sunday was missed during that time. For twenty-five years they held Child Evangelism Classes (Good News Club) in their home.

As a member of the Dora Davis Union of the Abilene W.C.T.U. for many years, Mrs. Wenger held the office of White Ribbon Recruit Director, but helped in other areas as well. David Wenger as an honorary member showed his main interest by growing flowers to be given away through the Flower Mission of the W.C.T.U. He and his wife took hundreds of bouquets to rest homes and individual shut-ins. One year he had over 30 kinks of tulips plus other flowers.

Mr. Wenger passed away May 1, 1970. Mrs. Wenger though now totally blind continued to live alone and care for herself with very little outside help. This past July (1980) she made telephone calls and arranged for six children to be dedicated at a White Ribbon tying service. The previous year, she arranged for 4 children to be tied with white ribbons.

In an age of great mobility, of the four children, ten grandchildren and nine great grandchildren, only one family lives in Abilene. The rest live out of State, visiting when possible and holding great affection for their mother and grandmother. Ethel passed from this life March 12, 1981. She is mourned in her passing by her Sons and Daughters and their families, two sisters, other relatives and many friends. She was laid to rest in the Abilene Cemetery.

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Hazel O.Whited
Wichita, Kansas

Hazel O.Whited, Wichita Kansas passed away at Wesley Medical Center, August 15, 1981. She was a long time member of the Frances Willard Union in Wichita. After her retirement from teaching school she became active in her Union and not only attended the monthly meetings but also the district, state meetings and the workshops. She was the daughter of Flora Cottrell, who also was a long time member of the Frances Willard Union. Hazel was a member of College Hill Methodist Church, and leaves two daughters, eight grandchildren and other relatives and friends to mourn her passing.

Hazel O. Whited passed away May 1, 1980. Mrs. Anger, though now totally blind, remained active in the church and in her home, but with very little outside help. This past July (1980) she had a special service and received the six children of her daughter as she dedicated her to White ribbon. In the previous year, she arranged for 4 children to be kind with white ribbons.

Hazel O. Whited, of the community, of the four children, one granddaughter and nine grandchildren, all of whom have been to Kansas. She was the mother of Flora visiting from California, and was greatly attached to the wife mother and grandmother. Hazel O. Whited died on May 1, 1980. She is survived by her parents by her son and daughter-in-law, two sisters, other relatives and many friends. The services were held at the First Methodist Church.

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IN LOVING MEMORY

Elva Ruth Whitten

Phillipsburg, Kansas

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