

EVA ZERLINE LEWERS

1895-1956

Eva Zerline Lewers, Superintendent of the Indian Boarding School at Eufaula, Oklahoma, for over twenty-one years, died November 20, 1956. Miss Lewers, the daughter of Charles Alexander and Jeanette Greenwood Lewers, was born December 31, 1895 at Schofield, Missouri. She was survived by her mother, who has since expired, by two brothers, James Greenwood and Christopher Hamilton Lewers, and by two sisters, Mrs. Harold Bradshaw Howat and Mrs. William Carroll Langston. Interment was in the family burying lot in Sapulpa, Oklahoma, with the Reverend Sherman Kirkpatrick, Minister of the First Christian Church of Eufaula and the Reverend Frank Belvin of Okmulgee, Oklahoma, officiating. Miss Lewers was a descendant from a long line of colonial ancestry dating back in America to the First Families of Virginia. She was a charter member of the Pennsylvania Chapter Colonial Daughters of the Seventeenth Century, and life member of the Oklahoma Historical Society.

Miss Lewers worked in the United States Department of the Interior, Department of Indian Affairs, for more than thirty-six years. She served among the Sioux Tribes of South Dakota and as Superintendent at the Rosebud Reservation, at Carter Seminary in Ardmore, as well as at Eufaula.

Among the educators with whom Miss Lewers was associated she was known for her brilliance, her high scholastic standards and attainments, as well as for her unusual devotion to duty. Elementary and high school work were completed at Crane, Missouri, where she graduated as valedictorian. Her Bachelor of Science degree was earned at Missouri State College at Warrensburg where she again graduated with honors. She received the Master of Science degree at Iowa State College at Ames, Iowa. After teaching in high school at Lamoni, Iowa, where her agriculture classes received first honors in competition at Iowa State College, and after teaching at Graceland College, Lamoni, Iowa, she taught at Iowa State College. She later had graduate work at Peabody College, Nashville, Tennessee, and at Columbia University in New York, completing all residential requirements for her doctorate degree. Citations and Medals of Merit for outstanding professional work were awarded to her in 1956 and 1958 by the United States Department of the Interior. Scholastic organizations recognized her high attainments. She was a member of Lambda Delta Sigma, an honorary scholastic fraternity; Sigma Delta, honorary society of agriculture; Kappa Delta Pi, honorary fraternity of education; and Phi Gamma Mu, honorary fraternity of social sciences.

Not only for her educational and professional attainments was Miss Lewers admired by her associates but her civic work was recognized as attested by ten Presidential Citations for outstanding service to the American Red Cross. The Indians particularly appreciated her work in their behalf as was stated by Reverend Frank Belvin when he said: "Our Indians are the better for her having passed this way".

The First Christian Church of Eufaula has established the Eva Lewers Memorial Flower Fund—a perpetual fund. Annually, on the Sunday nearest Thanksgiving, flowers are placed in the church in her

memory. This church has also dedicated its new Youth Center to her memory. This spacious and beautiful addition to the church is officially called The Eva Lewers Youth Center and Fellowship Hall. The large bronze tablet, unveiled when the room was dedicated, bears the following inscription:

This Youth Center and Fellowship Hall
is dedicated in loving memory of

MISS EVA LEWERS

Superintendent of Eufaula Indian Boarding
School for over twenty-one years, prominent
educator, brilliant student, and an outstanding
friend of young people everywhere.

May 4, 1958

York, Pennsylvania

—By Aileen Langston

LOU IRION CLARKE

1865-1958

Mrs. Lou Irion Clarke was born in Indianola, Iowa, in 1865, the eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Irion. She received her early education in the schools of Indianola where her father was engaged in the practice of law. Before her marriage she was employed in newspaper work in Iowa and Nebraska. She was married to Sidney Clarke, Jr., September 3, 1886, in Holt County Nebraska. She died in Shawnee, Oklahoma on September 15, 1958.

Mr. and Mrs. Clarke came to Oklahoma at the opening, in 1889, and settled at Anadarko for a time, but later came to Shawnee, where they established their home, and he went into business. In 1903, Mr. Clarke organized a feed and seed business. This was later a partnership with the late William Keller, which prospered as The Clarke-Keller seed store for many years. In 1936 Mr. Clarke sold his interest in the business and retired from business, but retained his interest in the community in which he had taken prominent parts, as councilman, and as a member of civic and fraternal organizations. He died at their home, March 19, 1951.*

The debt that a community owes to its pioneer women is difficult to calculate. They came when the country was unsettled, all kinds and classes of people had flocked here to gather the benefits a new country might offer, their ideas being "to get" rather than "to give" or help in the development of a community. It was the stable earnest pioneers who actually organized and worked tirelessly to establish and keep social standards and bring order out of chaos. Most of this work fell to the lot of pioneer women. Such a woman, such a worker was Lou Clarke!

Mrs. Clarke brought courage, and strength of character to this work, and an abiding interest in the upbuilding of the community through religious and social progress. Her idea of charity extended to human behavior, as well as providing for the body needs, and comforts of unfortunate people, and many young people came under her guiding influence and became upright citizens—who might have taken a different route. Seeing the need of organized charity she helped organize the Shawnee Provident Association, which was a forerunner of the Red Cross in its humanitarian work, and the present Community Chest.

Mrs. Clarke was a former member of the Shawnee Park board, which worked to beautify the city, and was instrumental in preserving historically interesting places and objects. One notable example of her work being the preservation of the picturesque old log cabin, the first home of a white woman in the city, which now stands in the woodland park.

Mrs. Clarke's church affiliation was with the First Presbyterian Church, but her religious interest extended without prejudice to all the organized Christian work. She was a consistent member of "The Ladies of the Round Table" one of the oldest study clubs in the city. She was a member of the Shawnee Country Club, and attended the family night parties there regularly until her last illness. She was also an ardent sports enthusiast, and seldom missed a baseball game.

The Clarke's only son, Ross Clarke died in 1951. Their only daughter is Mrs. Tom Douglas. Other survivors include two grandsons, Sidney Ross Clarke, Jr., Shawnee; H. T. Douglas, III, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; and seven great-grandchildren.

Shawnee, Oklahoma

—Florence Drake

* Mr. Sidney Clarke, Jr., was the son of Hon. Sidney Clarke, former Congressman from Kansas, active in the movement to open the Oklahoma lands to homestead settlement in 1889, and a prominent resident in Oklahoma City.—Ed.