

1874. This, however, was disbanded soon after its organization, by the Grand Master, who ordered all Chapters to disband. Again in 1849 when Monona Chapter No. 50, E. S. was formed she was chosen its first Worthy Matron and presided for three and a half years. In 1894-1895 she was a Grand Officer of the Order of the Eastern Star in Wisconsin. On the occasion of the only meeting of the National Education Association ever held in Madison she worked untiringly as a member of the Woman's Entertainment Committee.

She was brought up in the Episcopal Church, being a Sunday School pupil, teacher and later for several years was President of the Ladies Guild of Grace Episcopal Church. Her death occurred March 10, 1908 at her home in Madison.

JULIA ANNE DARST CONOVER

Contributed by the John Bell Chapter, D. A. R.

Julia Anne Darst, daughter of John and Rachel Williams Darst, was born on a farm on Lost Creek near Troy, Ohio. Her father was a German Baptist minister, although his ancestors on the father's side were probably of the French Huguenots, who came into Scotland and later into Ireland. From Ireland the first Darst, Paul by name, came to this country with Lord Baltimore.

Julia Darst passed her girlhood and young womanhood in Dayton, Ohio, as it was impossible in those days to obtain an education in the country. On November 28, 1849, she was married to Obadiah M. Conover and came with him to Wisconsin. After a short sojourn in Milwaukee, they removed to Madison where Mr. Conover became a member of the University Faculty, first as tutor, then as professor of Ancient Languages and Literature.

Mrs. Conover became an active and useful influence in the social life of the University and of the little frontier

town which Madison at that time could rightly be called. She was a devoted member of the First Congregational Church of Madison, and an active worker in the Sabbath School and she was greatly beloved by all who knew her.

The children of O. M. Conover and Julia Darst Conover were Edith Williams, born Jan. 2, 1852; Allan Darst, born Sept. 9, 1854; Frederick King, born December 17, 1857; and John Berlew, born December 28, 1861.

Mrs. Conover died March 27, 1863. The poem, "Via Solitaria," written by Professor Conover shortly after her death, was published for the first time in *The New York Independent*. Twenty years later, through the mistake of a Michigan professor, the poem was again sent to and published by the *New York Independent* and the authorship attributed to Henry W. Longfellow. The *Independent* later made a published correction.

EDITH W. CONOVER

Contributed by the John Bell Chapter, D. A. R.

On January 2, 1852, the students in Professor Conover's classes in the University of Wisconsin had a holiday. Not knowing just what use to make of such unwanted leisure, they betook themselves to the village bookstore where they selected a prayer book and a hymn book. Returning to their rooms in North Hall, they wrote a letter of congratulation to Professor and Mrs. Conover and sent it with the books which were a birthday gift to the infant, whose arrival was the cause of their holiday. This infant was named Edith Williams Conover and she has retained that name unto this present day, August 12, 1924. After graduating from Milwaukee Female College in 1871, she was, until 1882, head of her father's home, and has ever since been so busy attending to things which it seemed to be her duty to care for, that she has had no time to strive for fame.