

## MRS. CHARLES S. MEARS

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

(Extract from the Wisconsin State Journal, Feb. 9, '22)

"The funeral of Mrs. Harriet Mears, 91, widow of Charles S. Mears, one of the oldest women of Madison, took place here this afternoon. She had lived in this city for 67 years.

"After coming as a young matron in 1865 from New Albany, Ind., where she was born and where she was married at 17 to Charles S. Mears, her home was on the site of the Present Parkway theatre, and there she and her husband had a fine vineyard and orchard. When construction of the city hall—now old and all but ready to be displaced—was begun and their home was threatened to be overshadowed by the great structure, they erected a house on East Gilman Street, and there has been her home since, for more than 64 years. It is next to the executive residence, and since General Rusk's time the Mears family has been closest neighbor of all Wisconsin governors.

"Mrs. Mears possessed a remarkable memory, and was more fully informed respecting social and other affairs of the city for over 60 years than any other person. Newspaper men frequently appealed to her for early data regarding Madison and Madisonians, and never without obtaining generous information, often intimate, welcome; and procurable from no other source.

"As an incident of her early life she was wont to tell, how, in childhood, she went with her father, member of a committee, down the Mississippi in a gay packet and escorted General Zachary Taylor up to Louisville, New Albany and other cities where receptions were being tendered as he progressed toward the national capitol for his inauguration.

"Her keen mind never lost its zest for life. People, politics, books, travel were of unfailing interest to her."

Harriet Anthony Mears was a lineal descendant of Thomas Seabrook, who assisted in establishing American independence while acting in the capacity of major and lieutenant colonel in the first regiment of Monmouth County, New Jersey and whose son, Stephen Seabrook, was aide de camp and dispatch-bearer to General Washington. The battle of Monmouth was fought on Thomas Seabrook's farm.

She was a member of the John Bell Chapter D. A. R., Madison, Wisconsin.

ELEANOR McCONNELL WARD

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Eleanor McConnell Ward, the wife of Dr. Andrew J. Ward, came to Wisconsin to reside in 1850. She was welcomed in Madison by a group of superior, intellectual women. Mrs. Lathrop, the wife of the Chancellor of the University; Mrs. J. C. Fairchild, the mother of three brave sons; Mrs. Edward Isley, later of Milwaukee; Mrs. Morrison, Mrs. L. W. Hoyt; Mrs. O. M. Conover; Mrs. J. W. Sterling; Mrs. Simeon Mills, the real pioneer; and others who composed the refined society of the pioneer city.

Dr. Ward had served two years in the Mexican war in California, and the year before coming to Wisconsin, himself and wife spent months in Washington, D. C., where they were privileged to meet many prominent men and women of that time.

Dr. Ward had a long line of fighting ancestors. Andrew Ward, Governor of Connecticut in 1634, Captain Peter Ward in the Colonial War, Ichabod Ward, his grandfather, a brave patriot of the War of the Revolution. Mrs. Ward's grandfather served in the war of 1812.