

her field of labor. She also visited Washington and induced Lincoln to establish hospitals in Wisconsin for sick soldiers. Senator Howe drew up a petition at the proposal of Mrs. Harvey and Mrs. Eliza Chappell Porter.

(Mrs. Frank S.) Antoinette Cowles, Daughter No. 30546, 635 Park Ave., Beloit, Wisconsin, Dec. 27, 1923.

ROSE C. SWART

Author—Lillian Kimball Stewart
Oshkosh

On a bright October day in 1921 there were gathered in the gymnasium of the State Normal School at Oshkosh, Wisconsin, hundreds of men and women, ranging in age from twenty to fourscore, all of them animated by a feeling of love and loyalty for the institution of which at some time in their lives each had been a part. They were holding a jubilee, celebrating the golden anniversary of the opening of their school.

Among those on the platform sat a woman, serene, vigorous, alert, who had been a teacher in the school for fifty years—Rose C. Swart. The most touching feature of the programme on that day was the presentation to her by the President of the State Board of Normal School Regents of a gold medal, or pin, in recognition of her long and inestimable service. In expressing her appreciation of the tribute Miss Swart revealed in these words the noble spirit in which her life work had been accomplished: "The day's work, multiplied to some ten thousand has always been full of vital interest, rich in good cheer, AND ITS OWN REWARD". She had never sought for honors or for fame. Always she had been content to do her best and to give her best wherever she was placed, knowing well that only a life so lived is truly great, truly successful.

Rose C. Swart was born in Honesdale, Pennsylvania, January 14, 1847. From her father, who was of Dutch

descent, she derived her sturdy, honest intellect, her sense of humor, and her ability to work continuously at a task until it was completed. From her mother, who came of Puritan stock, she derived her common sense, her quick understanding, her love of justice and liberty. After the death of her parents when she was a child of ten, she came to Wisconsin with her older sister, Mary, to live in the home of an aunt at Racine. At the age of fifteen she began her career as a teacher amidst the pioneer conditions then prevailing in Wisconsin. She taught a country school for eight dollars a month and her board. After she had reached the age of twenty she had no further schooling, but all her life she has been a student, purposeful and constant.

In 1871 Miss Swart had become so proficient as a grade teacher in southern Wisconsin, at Janesville and Madison, and had gained so wide a reputation as a woman of unusual power, grasp, and resourcefulness, that she was invited by President Albee to take charge of the primary department in the newly organized state normal school at Oshkosh, at a salary of sixty dollars a month. She found herself then in a most congenial and stimulating atmosphere, and her expanding powers developed rapidly. In a few years she was the head of the department of geography. In a few more years she was assisting the president in the inspection and criticism of work done by practice teachers in the training department. At last she had found her sphere of widest usefulness, and there she continued to serve for more than thirty years.

When Miss Swart entered upon her new line of work, that of training teachers, there was little to aid her in the way of precept and still less in the way of example. She had to devise her own methods, and then adapt them to each individual student who came under her instruction. And she had not only to instruct but to inspire. She overcame all these difficulties because she was a born teacher. Her knowledge of psychology,

her insight into the mental processes of children, her grasp of the essentials of any subject, her patience, her skill, her zeal and her determination enabled her to do remarkable work in the way of fitting young men and women to go forth into the schools of Wisconsin and fulfill the high responsibilities of a teacher. During a quarter of a century every student who graduated from the Oshkosh Normal School came under her influence. She helped them to obtain knowledge, to understand children, and to love teaching. She gave them high ideals; she inspired them to work for those ideals. They went from her into every state in the Union. They exemplified her teaching in thousands of communities. They have come back to the old school from the uttermost parts of the earth, bringing to her their tributes of praise and gratitude. Nor has she lacked formal and public testimonials to her distinguished service. In 1896 the State University conferred upon her the honorary degree of Master of Arts. In 1898 the teachers of Wisconsin elected her president of the State Teachers' Association.

Although Miss Swart has been primarily an educator, her life has never run in one groove. She has been actively interested in politics and religion, literature and art, child welfare and woman suffrage. She is a charter member of the Twentieth Century Club of Oshkosh, and has long been a member of the Oshkosh Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution. For many years her constant companion was her sister, Mary, Mrs. W. M. DeLong, a woman of rare intellect, who became a minister of the Universalist Church. Her thought, like Miss Swart's was always in advance of her time. Both of them espoused the cause of woman suffrage in the time of Susan B. Anthony, and Miss Swart did notable work for that cause just before the passage of the nineteenth amendment.

To her friends Rose C. Swart is best known as the gracious and hospitable mistress of a delightful home. Severe illness came to her in 1922, which she bore with fortitude and an abiding will to get well. Her health is

now entirely restored, she has retired from teaching, and is spending her declining years in a well earned leisure, sweetened by the satisfaction that a life well spent has brought to her all that should accompany old age—honor, love, a competence, and hosts of friends.

MRS. CYNTHIA FOOTE CONKEY

Author—Mrs. Alice Waters Jones
Appleton

Mrs. Cynthia Foote Conkey, who came so early (1848), with her husband, (Theodore), to their new home in Wisconsin forests, was born at Canton, New York, a daughter of Chauncy and Gula (Bird) Foote. Her mother, Gula Bird, was a daughter of Joseph and Cynthia (Binny) Bird. Joseph Bird, a native of Vermont, served in many bloody battles of the Revolution, was wounded and left under a heap of slain upon the field of Monmouth, his first encounter, at sixteen years of age; but he recovered to rally with the "Green Mountain Boys" for the defeat of Burgoine at Bennington, and lived to a good old age of ninety-three, carrying the British bullet so close to his loyal heart that the surgeons dared not extract it. He sleeps in the shadow of the green hills, he, with others, so bravely defended.

Mrs. Conkey's ancestors, the Binneys, emigrated early from England to Massachusetts, and became the owners of much valuable property in Boston, including what was known as the "Long Wharf."

The children of Cynthia and Theodore Conkey were: Alice Foote Conkey Reid, who died November 21, 1891, in Dublin, Ireland, Edward Talcott Conkey, who died November 18, 1881, Helen Bird Conkey, married (ex-congressman) Lyman Eddy Barnes.