

Elizabeth V. Brown

(11 Apr 1868 – 28 Jul 1915)

Brown. On Wednesday evening, July 28, 1915 at the home of her mother, 1357 Euclid street, Elizabeth V. Brown. Funeral Saturday, July 31 at 4 o'clock from her late residence. Friends invited. Interment private.

Evening Star, July 29, 1915, p. 20

Miss Elizabeth Brown Dead Due to Fall in May

Director of Primary Instruction in Washington Public Schools for Years

Author of Children's Books, Lecturer and Traveler -- Funeral Probably Saturday Morning



Miss Elizabeth V. Brown, educator, author and clubwoman, for more than ten years director of primary instruction in the local public schools, died last night at her home, 1357 Euclid street northwest. Death was due to a nervous breakdown following a fall sustained in May.

Time for funeral services have not been decided upon but probably will be held Saturday with interment at Congressional cemetery.

The death of Miss Brown came as a shock to hundreds of friends throughout the city, with whom she had been associated in educational social and religious work in a manner which made her a beloved leader in all activities.

Miss Brown was the daughter of the late George H. Brown, who was for thirty-nine years landscape gardener of the District. She received her education in the Washington schools, graduating from both high and normal schools, and later received the degree of A.B. from the George Washington University.

School Career

Soon after her graduation she was appointed method and practice teacher in the Normal school.

As director of primary instruction for more than ten years Miss Brown had charge of the work of the first four grades, during which time she brought the primary schools up to the highest standard of efficiency. She held her position during the terms of Superintendents Stuart, Chancellor, Davidson and Thurston.

Miss Brown had been very popular as a lecturer on education and its related problems, and had been heard in many of the leading cities in the south, east and middle-west. Extensive travels through the various countries of Europe as well as in the United States and Canada gave Miss Brown a breadth of view which was reflected in her lectures and in her educational and social work.

Author of Children's Books

As the author of a number of books for children Miss Brown won wide recognition. Among her earlier works are "Stories of Woods and Fields," "Stories of Childhood and Nature" and "When the World Was Young." Later she was a co-author of the "Home Readers."

Miss Brown was recently unanimously elected to succeed herself as president of the College Women's Club, an organization of 400 women, representing eighty-three colleges and universities. During Miss Brown's term the club reached its banner year, undertaking under her leadership new and successful enterprises.

She was the organizer and first president of the Teachers' Branch of the Women's Department of the National Civic Federation.

Miss Brown was an active member and earnest worker in the Audubon Society, the Y.W.C.A., the League of American Pen Women, the Twentieth Century Club, the Columbian Women and the Monday Evening Club.

Early in life Miss Brown identified herself with the Presbyterian Church. She was a member of the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church. For many years she was a teacher, and afterward assistant superintendent of the Sunday school of that church.

Besides her mother, a sister, Mrs. Daniel Webster Prentiss, and two brothers, Capt. Orville G. Brown, U.S.A., and George H. Brown, are living.

The Evening Star, August 14, 1915, p. 2

Urges School Be Named For Elizabeth V. Brown

James F. Oyster Suggests Honor for Former Director of Primary Instruction

James F. Oyster, former president of the board of education, today called on Commissioner Louis Brownlow and suggested that the Chevy Chase School be named for the late Miss Elizabeth V. Brown, director of primary instruction and one of Washington's foremost educators. Friends of Miss Brown started the movement shortly after Miss Brown's death, which occurred a few weeks ago, as the result of a fall sustained last spring while she was visiting one of the schools. It is understood that Commissioner Brownlow regarded the suggestion favorably

Few schools in the District are named for educators, although the school officials have frequently urged that a larger percentage of buildings should be named for those who have worked to advance educational interests. No building in the system at present bears the name of Brown, so that this, too, is quite likely to militate in favor of the proposal.

It has been suggested that a school bearing only a community name--such as the Chevy Chase--could easily be named for Miss Brown. Miss M.E. Given, principal of this school, was one of Miss Brown's most intimate friends, the two having gone through various educational institutions together.

The Evening Star, March 28, 1916, p. 9

Memorial Is Planned To Elizabeth V. Brown

Establishment of Scholarship Fund Object of College Women's Club

Establishment of a scholarship fund as a memorial to the late Miss Elizabeth V. Brown is the object of a movement which has been initiated by the College Women's Club of Washington, of which Miss Brown was president. She was also director of primary instruction in the public schools of Washington and was affiliated with many organizations here.

Plans for establishing the fund were presented by Miss Emma H. Turner, the president, at a meeting of the club at the Raleigh Hotel, yesterday. Included in the general plans were those devised for securing individual contributions as drawn up by a committee appointed for the purpose in February.

This committee consists of Miss Ella Given, chairman; Mrs. John Cummings, Mrs. William H. Herron, Mrs. Thomas B. Rhodes and Mrs. John R. Weyrich.

Appeal to Be Sent Out

An appeal is to be sent out during the coming week to members of the College Women's Club and of all other clubs of which Miss Brown was a member, as well as to teachers in the Washington public schools, asking that contributions and pledges be sent to Mrs. John R. Weyrich (the Thomas), secretary and treasurer of the committee.

The proceeds of the fund will be employed each year in providing scholarships for Washington teachers who wish to undertake or to continue studies at George Washington or at some other university.

A statement made by the committee today says:

"It is believed that the numerous friends of Miss Brown will feel that this sort of memorial is eminently appropriate, as a perpetual witness to the spirit of helpfulness and good will which inspired her constant devotion to the public schools of Washington, and her active interest in every movement of community improvement. While some pledges of considerable sums are assured, it is expected that the fund will be built up mainly of small contributions from Miss Brown's numerous personal friends."

The Evening Star, January 16, 1913, p. 24

In The Channel Isles

Miss Elizabeth V. Brown Lectures on Her Experiences

"A Pen Woman in the Channel Islands" was the subject of an illustrated lecture by Miss Elizabeth V. Brown, director of primary instruction in the public schools of the District, at the Public Library last evening. The lecture was given under the auspices of the League of American Pen Women. Besides members of the league, many school officials and others were present.

Miss Brown was introduced by Capt. James F. Oyster, president of the board of education. On the platform sat Dr. William M. Davidson, superintendent of schools; Mrs. Susie Root Rhodes and Mrs. Edith Kingman Kern, members of the board of education.

The Evening Star, January 16, 1913, p. 24

Describes Channel Islands

Miss Elizabeth V. Brown, superintendent of primary instruction of the District schools gave a lecture on the Channel Islands last night at the Public Library. The lecture was under the auspices of the League of American Pen Women.