

Elizabeth S. Danenhower

(- 7 Mar 1920)

Danenhower. Entered into rest at 6:15 o'clock, Sunday morning, March 7, 1920, Elizabeth S. Danenhower, widow of the late W.W. Danenhower in her 97th year. Services at 2 p.m., Tuesday, March 9 at her residence, 716 19th street s.w.

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Cheer and Smiles Mark Life at 93

And Faith Also Figures Largely in Life of Mrs. Elizabeth S. Danenhower Recalls Many Elections

"I do not know why I'm living yet, but I think the Lord must have a work for me to do," Mrs. Elizabeth S. Danenhower said today with a smile, while she sat in the coy parlor of her home at 716 19th street northwest and watched the busy world go by on her ninety-third birthday.

But those who were fortunate enough to listen to her bright, lively conversation, see her youthful smile, and witness her implicit faith in God, did not doubt for a minute why she is living yet, nor hesitate to tell her that indeed she has a work to do, and is even now doing it. Her cheer, her smile, her faith-- these are her work, she was told.

To which she replied, with another smile: "Oh, but I'm only a back number."

Elections Old, Old, Story

On this election Mrs. Danenhower can remember more Presidents than the American people are interest in today. Her marvelous memory reaches back into the days of her young womanhood, and recalls the days when she was in Chicago and saw the President-elect, Abraham Lincoln, on the night before he came to Washington to accept the greatest gift in the power of the republic. President elections are an old, old story to Mrs. Danenhower.

Elizabeth Uber, as she was before her marriage, was born in Philadelphia, November 7, 1823. She was married in 1840 to William W. Danenhower, and the couple lived in Philadelphia until 1848, when they went west to Chicago, then a struggling city that gave little promise of the metropolis to be.

"Chicago! It was the coldest place! Mrs. Danenhower smiles, recalling the days of '48. "We had to buy our water by the barrel, and when we went out at night we had to carry lanterns to keep from falls on the boardwalks."

Came to Capital in 1861

With her husband, Mrs. Danenhower came to Washington in 1861. Her husband was one of the auditors for the Treasury Department, and actively interested in the hotel business in the National Capital. He died in 1894. Recollections of their fifty-four happy years together form some of the pleasantest memories of Mrs. Danenhower today.

Mrs. Danenhower was the mother of eleven children, five of whom are living. They are Mrs. R.E. Schenck, who lives with her mother at the 19th street home; Mrs. Frank Williams and William W. Danenhower, both of this city; Washington Danenhower of Knoxville, Tenn., and Joseph L. Danenhower of Chicago. Mrs. Danenhower has eighteen children and thirty great-grandchildren.

Mother of Lieut. Danenhower

She loves to recall memories of her son, Lieut. John W. Danenhower, U.S.N., who was navigating officer of the Jeanette on the famous polar exploration. She tells of the trip her son made through the polar seas, at one time sitting to his knees in ice water, holding his crew to its task by means of a pistol.

Then she tells how "the power of the cross" saved the life of her son and his companions. The gift of a young woman of San Francisco, the cross was worn by Lieut. Danenhower all during the perilous voyage. When he finally got his craft landed at a place on the Lepa delta, they saw three natives of that land coming toward them. The crew was without food but Lieut. Danenhower had a bit of pemmican which he offered to one of the natives.

Fed When Cross Is Displayed

It happened that the natives were Russians, and when offered the pemmican made the sign of the cross, Lieut. Danenhower, bared his breast, and upon it the natives saw suspended the cross. They embraced the young officer, and took the nearly famished crew and fed and sheltered them all.

But to Mrs. Danenhower her son is not "dead." She has a better way of saying that. "He is in glory," she says, with a smile of motherly triumph in her eyes.

Of late years Mrs. Danenhower has confined her reading, of which she was always fond, to the Bible and hymn books. These, together with the Christian Herald and The Evening Star, comprise the extent of her reading nowadays.

Ardent Peace Advocate

She does not take a great interest in the present election, although she has always been a democrat. She is an ardent peace advocate, a great believer in prohibition, and an anti-suffragist. She admires President Wilson immensely for his advocacy of peace.

When asked her opinion of the European war, she called it "the most horrible thing," and soon started to talk of something else. Mrs. Danenhower prefers horse and carriage to automobiles, she says. She does all her own marketing and shopping, and every now and then takes a trip to her native city of Philadelphia.