

## Flora Adams Darling

(25 Jul 1840 – 6 Jan 1910)

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*The Evening Star, January 6, 1910, p. 21*

### **Mrs. Darling Dead**

### **D.A.R. Founder Expires Suddenly in New York**

### **Resident of Washington**

### **About to Start for Home Here When Summons Came**

### **Was Seventy Years Old**

### **Was One of the Organizers of the Original Society Formed in This City**

New York, January 6--Mrs. Flora Adams Darling, a founder of the society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and the Society of the Daughters of the War of 1812, died this morning, at 9 o'clock, from apoplexy, at the home of her brother, John Quincy Adams, at 153 West 117th street. She was seventy years old.

Mrs. Darling was just starting for Washington. A cab had been summoned and when it reached the door she rose to go out, but was seized with a stroke of apoplexy, when she reached the hall. Dr. Lombard of Graham Court, the family physician was sent for. When he reached the house Mrs. Darling had already died. Mr. Adams, her brother was going to accompany her to Washington.

Mrs. Darling will be buried at Lancaster, N.H., Saturday or Sunday. She was the widow of Gen. Edward Irving Darling of the southern Confederacy, who was killed in the civil war. She is survived by two grandchildren, Charles Tiernon Darling and Nancy Darling of Washington.

### *Controversy Over Founding*

There has been a controversy of long standing as to who was the actual founder of the Daughters of the American Revolution, other claimants to that distinction being unwilling to cede all the honor to Mrs. Darling.

The Society was organized in the city of Washington. The headquarters are in Washington. Its present membership is reported by the secretary general to be 60,250. It has 1,000 state chapters in forty-five states and territories and the District of Columbia. Chapter regents have been appointed for Cuba, China, Mexico and the Philippines.

The Daughters of the Revolution were organized in the city of New York, August 20, 1891. Eligibility to membership is restricted to women who are lineal descendants of an ancestor who was a military or naval or marine officer, soldier, sailor or marine in actual service under the authority of any of the thirteen colonies or states, or of the continental congress, and remained always loyal to such authority, or descendants of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, or one who actually assisted in the establishment of American independence.

Mrs. Flora Adams Darling was a resident of Washington for many years, and was prominent in patriotic society circles. Until recently she resided at 1007 N street. This house was given up a short while ago, and Mrs. Darling expected to make her home in another section of the city.

In addition to her brother, John Quincy Adams of New York, the deceased is survived by two grandchildren, Charles Tiernon Darling and Miss Nannie Darling.

*The Evening Star, January 9, 1910, p. 8*

### **Services for Mrs. Darling**

### **Reported Remains Will Be Brought To This City**

New York, January 8 -- Funeral services for Mrs. Flora Adams Darling, founder of the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Daughters of the Revolution and the Daughters of the War of 1812 were held here today at All Souls Church.

By request of the several societies of which she was founder it has been decided that Mrs. Darling shall be buried in Washington, D.C. She lived there for more than fifty years, during all the active period of her life.

Mrs. Matthew T. Scott, president general of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and other officers of that organization last night said they had not been advised of the purpose to bring the remains of Mrs. Darling to this city for interment.

*The Evening Star, April 20, 1895, p. 1*

### **Shocked at the Charges**

#### **Mrs. Spranger Says That Mrs. Darling is a Monomaniac**

Los Gatos, Cal., April 20 -- Dr. Francis X. Spranger and his wife, accused of the murder of Edward I. Darling, the former husband of Mrs. Spranger, by slow poisoning, are in the Santa Cruz mountains, and have been almost ever since they were married in Boston on the 11th March.

With them are the two children of Darling, a boy and a girl.

"We were greatly shocked at these charges," Mrs. Spranger said, "but, do you know, I have been expecting this for a long time. Mrs. Darling, the mother of my first husband, is a monomaniac on the subject of money, and ever since my husband's death she has made my life miserable. This persecution has grown almost unbearable since my marriage to Dr. Spranger. I want it understood, in the first place, that I am not nearly so wealthy as I have been credited with being.

"To be frank, we do not consider that she is in her right mind. The truth is that Mr. Darling killed himself, though, mind you, I would never have said anything about this had not my former husband's mother begun. During our entire married life he was addicted to the use of stimulants, and their excessive use finally brought on consumption and a general break-down, from which nothing could have saved him. Dr. Spranger was called in as any other physician might have been, and did what he could for my husband, but we all knew that he could not be saved.

"The cry about the poisoned milk at the Ebbitt House in Washington is all nonsense. The milk served us there was not good and made us all sick. Mrs. Darling, herself, ordered her son's body cremated. I had nothing to do with it. She had also done all she could to make my life miserable, once even trying to have my husband send me to an insane asylum, and she also took away my six-year-old girl, the one I have with me, and put the child in a convent."

The following telegram was sent today to John J. Connelly of Detroit, and Mrs. A.A. Birney at Washington,

Mrs. Spranger's attorney: "Darling has maligned us. Use your own judgment and course.

(Signed:) "Spranger."

**DARLING, FLORA ADAMS** (Mrs.), authoress, was born at Lancaster, Coos County, N.H., July 25, 1840, daughter of Harvey and Nancy Dustin (Rowell) Adams. She is of most distinguished ancestry; Henry Sampson, who came over in the Mayflower, and Henry Adams were her first ancestors to come to America. In England and Scotland her ancestors included many famous personages. In 1895 Westminster College, of Maryland conferred upon her the degree of A.M. She was the founder and first vice-president and general director of the Daughters of the

American Revolution, and for her services in organizing the society, was made an honorary life member. She resigned, however, in 1891. She is also founder of the United States Daughters of 1812, and president of the Edward Irving Darling Musical Society, founded in memory of her son, an American composer. She is also vice-president of the Lamperti School of Music. She is author of Mrs. Darling's Letters, or Memories of the Civil War; A Social Diplomat; Founding of the D.A.R and D.R. Societies; Senator Athens, C.S.A.; A Wayward Winning Woman; Was It A Just Verdict? Memories of Virginia (1907), etc. She is a benefactress of William and Mary College; presented to the State of Mississippi a portrait of Jefferson Davis; in memory of her son, gave a magnificent painting of the Crucifixion to the Church of St. Peter, Mt. Clemens, Mich. Mrs. Darling is a member of the American Society of Authors, and, in religion, a Roman Catholic. On March 15, 1859, she married Edward L. Darling, later General in the Confederate Army. Residence: 1907 N Street, N.W. [American Biographical Directory 1908-1909]

*The Washington Post, April 22, 1934, p. A54*

**Daughters of 1812 Open National Convention Here Today With Memorial Services**

**Delegates Dedicate Marker On Grave of Florence Darling**

**Ceremony at Congressional Cemetery in Honor of Society's Founder Follow Church Service**

The National Society, United States Daughters of 1812, will convene at the Willard Hotel today for a five-day session closing Thursday.

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After the memorial services the delegation and members will go to the Congressional Cemetery, where the Past Presidents Association will place a memorial marker in honor of Miss Flora Adams Darling, who founded the society 36 years ago.

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