

Bertha L. Gardner

(- 10 Dec 1951)

Gardner, Bertha L. On Monday, December 10, 1951, at her residence, 1800 Hoban rd. n.w., Bertha L. Gardner. Funeral services will be held at her late residence on Wednesday, December 12, at 2 p.m. Interment private.

The Evening Star, December 11, 1951, p. A20

Miss Bertha Gardner, 48 Years a Teacher at Eastern High Dies

Miss Bertha L. Gardner, 81, who taught at Eastern High School for 48 years of the school's first half century, died yesterday after a long illness at her home, 1800 Hoban road N.W.

Miss Gardner retired from the school system in June, 1940, just after Eastern celebrated its 50th anniversary. She is believed to have taught there longer than any other person.

Born in Autauga County, Ala., she lived in the District since early life.

Miss Gardner, a graduate of Boston University, came to Eastern in 1892, when the school was located in the attic of the Peabody School. At first an English teacher and librarian, she later taught senior English and history.

Many Pupils Now Prominent

Among her former students are many persons now prominent in literary, professional, industrial and financial circles of Washington.

Paying tribute today to Miss Gardner, Miss Freda D. Egbert, assistant principal, said:

"Miss Gardner was an outstandingly fine teacher not only in her chosen field of English, but in her marked influence on the young people who came under her tutelage."

When Eastern celebrated its 50th anniversary, Miss Gardner was the guest of honor. As her contribution to the celebration she had written a history of the school's growth from 170 students and six regular teachers to 2,500 students and more than 100 teachers in 1940.

Kept Up Correspondence

Throughout her life she maintained extensive correspondence with former Eastern students. To many of them the memory of school and Miss Gardner were interchangeable terms.

Miss Gardner organized and promoted the Eastern High School Alumni Association until it became one of the most active alumni groups in the area.

In her old classroom, tall filing cabinets containing an up-to-date card index of former students occupied almost every available inch of extra space. A complete set of her letters received from alumni who were serving alumni who were serving in World War I is on file there today.

Miss Gardner was the motivating force behind the publication of the Alumni Bulletin at the school. Even after her retirement she continued to read newspapers for accounts of former students which she regularly sent to the school.

Lindbergh Studied There

One remark of a former student which Miss Gardner treasured was that of Charles A. Lindbergh, who passing along Pennsylvania avenue en route from the Navy Yard said: "I was glad to see my old school again." He was a student there in 1915 and 1916.

A prolific writer, Miss Gardner penned a poem on Lindbergh's historic flight. It is included in an anthology in the school's library today.

Miss Gardner had devoted most of her retirement time to her friends, her correspondence and her literature.

Surviving is a sister, Miss Susan Gardner, a former teacher at Western High School who retired in 1944 after 28 years of teaching here.

Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. tomorrow at the home. Burial will be private.