

Happy 100th Birthday, Miss Little

By DONNA KNIGHT

Miss Rose Mary Little's daily piano recital, featuring mostly hymns but including an occasional rendition of "Frog of the Frog," draws an ardent audience from among residents of the Golden Rule Rest Home where she lives.

Tomorrow, neatly dressed as usual, she will read the daily papers, enjoy chatting with other home residents and

welcome the visit of Freckles and Taffy, the two pet dogs belonging to Bernard H. Beck, home administrator.

SHE ALSO will be guest of honor at a party, held in honor of her 100th birthday.

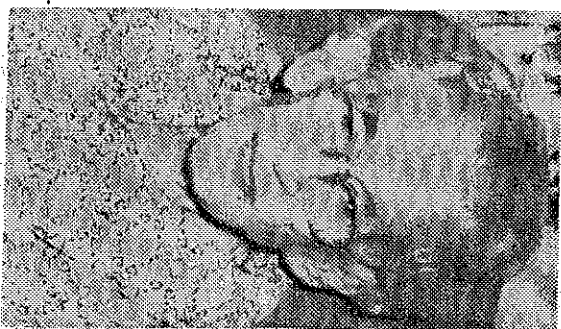
She will enjoy her new color TV, a gift of Eli Lilly, her cousin. She expects a telegram from President Richard M. Nixon, due to arrive during the 2 to 4 p.m. party in the home.

Festivities undoubtedly will be taken in stride by the honor guest, "who is remarkably alert and interested in the world around her," according to Mr. Beck.

"ALONG WITH the newspapers, she reads her Bible each day," says Mr. Beck. "Our people out here love to visit with her. She's knowledgeable about current happenings and tells wonderful stories about her youth."

She looks forward to the weekly bingo games and particularly enjoys the caroling by children visiting the home during the holidays. Having no children of her own, her interest centers on her 12 nieces and nephews and many more nieces and nephews numbered into the fifth generation.

She is a member of two pioneer Indiana families: the parental great-grandfather, Judge James Alexander Lill



MISS LITTLE

She was a member of the first Indiana legislature. Her mother, Corilla Lilly

Little, was the daughter of Gustavus and Elizabeth Lilly. Her uncles were Col. Eli Lilly, founder of Eli Lilly & Co., and his brother, James E. Lilly.

A CENTURY of memories include her childhood years at Cartersburg and, as a young woman, homesteading in North Dakota. She still holds the land, tended by a third-generation farm manager.

The party tomorrow, celebrating her Dec. 13 birthday, will be attended by the immediate family and friends, nieces and nephews who take the place of the children she never had.

"She tells me she probably never would have lived to be 100 if she'd had a husband and kids," says Mr. Beck.

Concerning Women

Key To...

DEATHS AND FUNERALS

Rose Little, 101; Ex-Schoolteacher

By ESTEL GIBSON

Miss Rose Mary Little, 1714 E. 67th, whose 101 years included experiences ranging from homesteading in North Dakota in the early 1900s to playing the "Frolic of the Frog" on the piano for residents at Golden Rule Rest Home, died yesterday at the home.

A native of Harrisville, Mo., Miss Little was a graduate of Indiana State Normal School, now Indiana State University. She also attended eight other colleges, including Columbia University.

She taught school for a total of 35 years at Plainfield, in Illinois and North Dakota. While teaching in North Dakota, she homesteaded 25 acres of buffalo grass. Miss Little held the land, now tended by a third-generation farm manager, all through her life.

A descendant of two pioneer Indiana families, Miss Little's mother, Corrilla Lilly Little, was a sister of Col. Eli Lilly, founder of Eli Lilly & Co. Her paternal grandfather, Judge James Alexander Little, was a member of the first Indiana State Legislature after Indiana became a state in 1816.

She received a telegram of congratulations from President Nixon at her 100th birthday party in 1972 at the nursing home, where, despite her advanced age, she still played the piano, read the paper and Bible and sang hymns.

Miss Little once attributed her reaching the century mark to not having had a husband or children.

She was a member of Broadway United Methodist Church, where she taught the Mizpah Bible class until four years ago, the Woman's Christian Temperance Union and the Retired Teachers Association.

Funeral services will be Friday at 11 a.m. at the church. Friends may call after 2 p.m. tomorrow at Hampton-Gentry Funeral Home at Plainfield and at 10 a.m. Friday in the church.



Miss Rose Mary Little

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Wednesday, December 13, 1972

NIXON SENDS TELEGRAM

Miss Rose Mary Little Begins Her 2nd Century

NEWS 12/13/1972 p14

Miss Rose Mary Little began her second century today with the good wishes of fellow residents and staff of the Golden Rule Rest Home near Oaklandon.

The party this afternoon in her honor marked the fourth day of celebrations, which began Sunday when about 60 friends and relatives celebrated her birthday at the nursing home.

Attending today's celebration was Miss Little's cousin, Eli Lilly, who earlier this week presented her with a color television set.

Yesterday's birthday surprises included a congratulatory telegram from President Richard M. Nixon.

Miss Little, who has been a resident at the nursing home



Rose Mary Little

since March, 1970, is a descendant, on her father's side, of Judge James Alexander Little, a member of Indiana's first General Assembly.

Her mother, Corilla Lilly Little, was a daughter of Gustavus and Elizabeth Lilly,

parents of Col. Eli Lilly, founder of Eli Lilly & Co., and of James E. Lilly.

A teacher for 35 years, Miss Little is a graduate of the former Terre Haute Normal School (now Indiana State University) and later attended eight other institutions of higher learning.

After spending her childhood in Cartersburg, Miss Little homesteaded in North Dakota. She still owns land there, overseen by a third-generation farm manager.

At the nursing home, Miss Little plays the piano daily, enjoys singing church hymns and visits daily with administrator Bernard H. Beck's golden retrievers, Freckles and Taffy.

A "LITTLE" TALK

There has been very little investigation and little written about the LITTLE in the little time I have been searching for Little family history. But after giving us a little thought and accumulating a little information here and a little there I am about convinced that there have been Littles before and Littles after, some big Littles and some little Littles, some hairy Littles and some bald Littles, and perhaps some Littles who wandered in their thinking and even spell their Little name differently. Given names of many of the early Littles came from the Bible.

Thomas Little, born in Scotland in 1740, moved to Ireland, on to Virginia, then on to Mercer County, Kentucky, where he died. He married Mary Campbell in Scotland. They had eight children: Mary, Nancy, Sarah, Thomas, John, Peter, James, and Alexander.

Alexander, our forefather, was born in Virginia Feb. 20, 1760, in Revolutionary War time and was early transplanted into the newer Kentucky country. There he married Rachel, daughter of Sam Little Robinson, a wine-merchant, and became the father of twelve children: Anna, Polly, Sarah Jane, Martha, Peter, John, Samuel, Rachel, William, Rebecca, Joseph, and Robert. Alexander had a daughter, ^{Grizzelle,} who married an Edwards in 1800; and had two children, Robert Alexander and Charles Herbert.

From Kentucky Alexander moved to Washington County, Indiana. He sold his holdings there in 1822 and came to central Indiana where he entered a large acreage of land about sixteen miles west of Indianapolis on the old National Road. Here he started to clear the land and built a large double cabin near the spring that still gives

Spring Hill its name. For years this spring poured forth its waters to the foot of the hill along the side of the National Road. Many are the times that I have stopped and have drunk of its cool, clear water, to have many travelers. Alexander then brought his family from Washington County and prepared to make this his home.

While in Washington County Alexander was well known for having the best peach orchard in the county. After coming to Hendricks County he planted an apple orchard of the latest grafted trees. This was the pride of his heart and was the best in the country-side. This was the pattern which his little followed years later when he established his well-known orchard and became the author of the first treatise on peach pears, our own native wild fruit.

While Alexander still lived in Washington County he was made a lieutenant and later a major in the militia which had been organized to protect the settlers from Indian attack. During this time he was appointed an associate judge in the Territorial Courts and from that on he was known as "Judge Little". When statehood was obtained for Indiana in 1816 he was elected to serve two terms in the State Legislature which met at Indiana's capitol at Corydon. After he came to Hendricks County he was again elected to serve in the legislature which now met in Indianapolis.

Realizing the need for a trading post in the area he established one in the side of the hill near his home and near to the road and the spring. He is reported to have opened the first such trading post in Hendricks County.

Alexander came to feel that his log cabin home did not reflect

his time remained in the country and the house was not very large
 enough for his numerous family. In about 1815 he built a large,
 imposing brick dwelling on the hill overlooking the Potomac, land
 and the spring. A large sign in the corner of the yard announced,
 "WATERBURY -- A. BROWN". This establishment early became a
 local center for the surrounding countryside and a stopping place
 for many travelers. Near here an early school house was built
 and the "Camp Grounds" for the Cumberland Presbyterian Church was
 established on his land. It would appear that he had joined this
 church group in Washington County and so helped to establish a simi-
 lar group here. In 1811 he joined the Methodist Church at Belleville
 which remained his church home until his death.

Alexander was a man with a commanding presence and a very able
 man in his affairs. He was an orchardist, a business man, a
 politician, a family man, and a church man. He died in 1849 at the
 age of 70 and was buried in the cemetery near Graveyard. At his
 death he left a large family and considerable wealth as well as a
 prominent place in the community. He lived a full, well-rounded life
 and the world was left a better place in which to live because of
 the life of "Judge Little".

Samuel, son of Alexander Little, was born April 26, 1813, in
 Mercer County, Kentucky. In the day following Samuel's birth, Alex-
 ander left for the newly purchased land in Washington County, Md.
 Samuel's youth was spent in Washington County. At the age of 20 he
 married Rebecca Jones. They then came to Loudon County and settled
 about one and one-half miles west of Linfield on the Potomac
 land. He also told me this was an unbroken forest land but that

channel and a small stream. He cleared forests into fields, and built himself a home on the north side of the seasonal creek. West of the other farm buildings -- barn, granary, crib, and shed -- stood on the south side. This writer remembers those buildings, also the well which was located in the front yard near the south-west corner of the house. At this time they are all gone and remain only a faint memory. There were born eleven children, four of whom died in infancy.

Carroll, the oldest, was born in 1830 and married a woman. They established their home about one mile west of Plainfield on the north side of the road. He recalls their big brick barn there. He was a farmer and lawyer and owned many parcels of land around the country-side. They had no children. Both died in Plainfield.

Elizabeth, born 1833, married Daniel Cox and they established their home about one mile north-east of Cartersburg. His brick dwelling was *their* home. This was a grain and livestock farm and Daniel excelled in both. He was a public spirited man and was very prominent during his lifetime. They raised eight children.

Mary Ann was born in 1834 and married Benjamin C. Harrison. They raised eight of their twelve children. They established their home in a log cabin located about one mile south of the old National Road on the Clayton-Basswood road. They later built a frame house on the banks of Mud Creek. Then about 1867 Benjamin bought a farm about one-half mile south of Clayton, moved his Mud Creek dwelling there, and added to it, making a fine old homestead which still stands.

Joseph was born in 1810, married Elizabeth, a sister of George in
-downtown. They raised one son, Edward Little. Joseph died in 1877
of typhoid fever.

Robert T. was born in 1817 and lived on a farm adjoining his
father's on the west. He sold out and went to Hamilton County. At
the time of the birth of his daughter Mary, his wife died and Mary
was taken into the home of Edward and his little wife raised her
up there. There were other children but this writer never
knew any.

Malissa was born in 1819 and married Miles Jackson. They
raised several children, Mary the only one this writer recalls.
They lived near Pittsburg at the turn of the century.

Thomas L. was born 1834, married Lucie Parsons. They raised six
children of whom only Fred survives. Thomas stayed on the home
place and raised his family there. All the early buildings were
discarded and a fine, large, new, red barn was built north-east of
the dwelling. Later the old house was replaced with a fine new one.

Alexander was born in 1853 and died at the age of eight years.

Samuel Little was an active man. In his later life when farm
work and rearing a family was largely a thing of the past, he found
many outside interests. When the National Road was being rebuilt
it was divided into five-mile sections and bids to repair and re-
build it were taken. Samuel bid off one section and John Miles, a
neighbor, bid another. Much rivalry resulted. Miles' plan was to
cut all the trees down, then go back, clear, and finish. Samuel
planned to cut, clear, and finish as he went. For a time it appeared

that time could think of but the old "little" pits and houses were still in general disrepair. Later, when the national road was turned over to the state, companies were formed to maintain certain sections. Toll gates were erected every few miles along the road and tolls were collected for upkeep. Samuel was treasurer of the section west of Plainfield. On each Monday morning, one could see the double grey horse, Charlie, pulling Samuel in his phaeton as he went to the toll house, collecting the accumulated tolls from the toll keeper. Samuel was a stockholder in the Carterbury-Plainville toll road and owned considerable bank stock.

Samuel was a man of God. He and his wife early joined the church. When the Plainville congregation of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church was organized, Samuel and Rebecca were listed as charter members. This early organization later became the Clayton congregation of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. This writer remembers Samuel, his second wife Ann, and her grandson, his little boy coming to the church. They often went to Grandpa Benjamin's for Sunday dinner.

About the year 1841 the children of Samuel decided to celebrate his birthday, which fell on April 26. So on that date littles and near-littles ^{assembled} at his Plainfield home -- the old and the young, the big and the small, men, women, and children until the livery stables were full of horses and house and yard were running over. Men from near and far, known and unknown, assembled on that date to celebrate. Through the years, for the younger littles that date was a holiday as important as Christmas and the Fourth of July! When the long festival day arrived, buggies and carriages came into

that I had seen all the children. Among the older people, perhaps
 some of the old and I was very old, but for the most part the
 young ones were glad and happy, for many were surprised to each
 other. Then all the little boys and girls were lined up in a
 row and each was given a small gift, such as a toy, a book, a
 little basket of fruit, a small toy, and the giving of the
 gifts was in order. The children of the family were assembled at
 the table and dinner was served for them. This was a wonderful
 day of life before we young ones could even see in the doorway.
 At last, but the dinner was all perfect and the little ones
 becoming excited. About 5:00 o'clock, when all the young ones were
 we young ones were called in to look over the work over and around
 the room. I do not recall much of the balance of the day, but
 I know I stayed for the day to come when I would be one of the old
 ones and would be at the "First Table". Alas! This has never
 come. Through the years the old ones changed and when I was one
 of the older ones, the small boys were fed first.

When my little nephew turned the age of eighty, he was presented
 with a gold-headed cane which he always proudly displayed on his
 birthday. As he grew older he became less able to care for himself.
 Eventually the birthday dinners were discontinued. During the last
 months of his life two of his grandsons sat up with him each night
 until the morning. He closed his eyes and fell asleep June 4, 1921,
 at the age of 85.

being on the subject of the birth of Samuel Little
 Little, and in the case of Samuel Little. It also would
 have been clearly for the sake of the world, as well as the man
 and the world of the world. There is a record of the birth date
 of Samuel Little of 1800 and from today. Let us remember that
 it will always be Little; the name of Samuel Little the day of
 April 16th, the birth date of Samuel Little.

presented to the gathering on the occasion of the 100th anniversary
 of the birth of Samuel Little by the writer.
 April 16, 1900 at the home, Indiana.

Clarence V. Edmondson