

Hortense Butler Heywood

Hortense Butler was the only child of Dr. Moreau S. Butler and Charlotte Kirchner Butler. She was born in Cherokee, Iowa, on March 27, 1884. Her father was the first physician in Cherokee. Her mother, Charlotte Kirchner Butler, came with her parents, the Christian Kirchner family, as a ten year old child, to northwest Iowa, the future village of Peterson.

Hortense was educated in Cherokee as a child. Upon the death of her father when she was eleven, she and her mother moved to Chicago, Illinois, where she was graduated from Hyde Park High school when she was fifteen years old. She then entered Lake Forest College, at Lake Forest, Illinois, graduating with a B.A. degree in entomology and paleontology with the class of 1903 at the ~~age~~ age of nineteen. ~~Some~~ Subsequent post graduate work was done at Chicago University 1904-05, Berlin University, Berlin Germany 1906-07, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York 1912-1914. She was a member of Sigma Xi, national honorary science fraternity. During the years of 1906 and 1907, she traveled widely throughout Europe, accompanied by her mother, Mrs. Butler, and for a portion of the time, by Mrs. Lena French, her aunt.

When she and her mother returned from Europe in 1907, to make their home at ~~the~~ "The Oaks", she spent a year teaching a country school south of Peterson known as the "Sleepy Hollow" school. She boarded that year with the Nick Amendt family, and often told stories of that time, and of how good the family was to her, and how they pampered her.

On August 11, 1915, she was united in marriage to Rolland E. Heywood, a local lumberman, in an outdoor ceremony at the family home, "The Oaks". She and her husband lived for a time in Peterson,

at "The Oaks" with Hortense's mother, lived in Webster City, Iowa, and in 1928 returned to Peterson and "The Oaks". Rolland Heywood died on January 17, 1933. In October of 1931, Hortense and Rolland had adopted a little, four ~~■~~ month old daughter, Julia Charlotte.

Hortense was the author of countless articles published in scientific magazines, and collaborating with Dr. James Needham of Cornell University, she co-authored a widely acclaimed scientific book, " Handbook of the Dragonflies of North America. Some years ago, when her daughter, Julia was visiting at Cornell University, she went to the entomology building to inquire about the book. To her surprise and pleasure, she learned that it was required reading for entomolgy students. Hortense also wrote many articles concerning the early history of Clay County, and the Peterson, Iowa area. She wrote and lectured about her own family history, the Christian Kirchner family, and the ~~ix~~ hardships they endured during those first years of building a new home and community ~~on~~ the then edges of the frontier.

Following in the footsteps of those who had gone before, several years ago she wrote, for her daughter, her own history. This is a treasured account, nearly seven ~~hundred~~ hundred pages long, of the events and happenings of her life.

The years of 1910 to 1912 were spent at Peterson High school as assistant principle and instructor of English and Latin. For many, many years, she served as a substitute teacher, remarking once that she had taught every class offered at the high school, including agriculture and shop for the boys. She was ~~an~~ excellent teacher, and her students enjoyed the time she spent with them. Her home, with its extensive library, was always open to those who asked for assistance. Many a lesson and research paper were worked on in the

gracious home on the hill.

Hortense Heywood for many years was ~~very~~ active ~~in~~ in the ~~civic, cultural~~ in the civic and cultural life of the community.

She worked on women's suffrage, was ~~xx~~ active locally, county and statewide in Farm Bureau, Red Cross, Civil Defense, County Welfare Board, and many other projects that she felt she could assist. ^{Served} She ^{on the County Board of Education} was a valued public speaker. She served on the Kirchner-French

Memorial Library Board for many years. She was a member of the Eastern Star, Past Matrons, Iowa Federated Women's Clubs, Peterson Tuesday Club, Webster City Women's Club, and many other organizations. She was ~~xx~~ one of the organizers and first president of the Webster City Woman's Club. Hortense was the state International Relations committee chairman for many years. She received a 50 year pin from the Eastern Star, and also her 50 year pin from the P.E.O. organization. She belonged to ~~P.E.O.~~ P.E.O. both in Webster City and Peterson. She was a Presbyterian by faith, but as no Presbyterian Church was in this community, she was a faithful ~~xxx~~ and generous supporter of the Congregational Church in Peterson, where she taught Sunday School for many years. She dearly loved her Sunday School work with "her boys", as she referred to the many groups of teen-age boys that she taught. What a treat it was, to come up to her home, have hot dogs or hamburgers and cocoa cooked on the little old stove in the log cabin, and to sit and listen to her ~~story~~ story telling of the pioneer days. ~~She~~ She also taught the adult class for years. She was a generous lady where ~~charitable~~ charitable contributions were concerned, supporting many causes for years. One that she enjoyed the most was the C.A.R.E. project, sending badly needed parcels of food and other ~~xxx~~ necessities to post-war Europe. She developed many friendships via the mails with our ~~European~~ European

friends in this way.

She managed her own business interests fully, and enjoyed this part of her life, too. It was a source of pride with her, that she had kept the same people on her farms for generations. The Elmer Gunnerson's lived at the place at Peterson from 1929 to 1944, and then E. N. Gunnerson, the son lived and farmed there from 1944 to 1977. The grandson of Elmer Gunnerson, Terry Gunnerson, now lives there.

That surely is a record of accord in anyone's book, and speaks highly of all those involved. Nearly the same record was repeated with her people in Sioux Rapids.

Through her ~~writings~~ writings and various talks, she left the town of Peterson a legacy of history that we value today. She was a clever poet, often writing reports in ~~rhyme~~ rhyme, amusing friends and co-workers alike. She gave a gift to the town of Peterson in memory of her husband, Rolland E. Heywood, and her mother, ~~She~~ Charlotte Kirchner Butler, when she caused to be erected the gates and brick pillars for the ~~cemetery~~ cemetery.

She was generous with her time and efforts for others, and was greatly missed when she died on ~~January 20~~ January 20, 1977.

~~She was~~