

May Snyder, DW's first wife Died May 27 1896

Date: Missionary July 1896

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DR DeWitt Clinton Snyder's first wife, May

A cablegram from Mr. Robert Whyte of London, brings us the painful tidings of the death of this faithful missionary, at Leopoldville, Stanley Pool, Africa, on the 27th of May, 1896

She was a native of Baltimore, Md., where her father, Mr. Charles Higinbotham, was a businessman respected for his integrity and Christian character. In her 15th year her parents removed to Brooklyn, N.Y, and there, two years afterwards, she was married to Captain Thompson, commander of a vessel, which became her home for many successive years.

It was thus, as a sea captain's wife, sailing over many seas and seeing many lands, that she obtained the extensive acquaintance with almost all parts of the world, which proved

to be a providential training for her subsequent missionary career.

On account of the failing health of her parents, Capt. Thompson retired from a sea-faring life and entered into business in New York City. A three fold bereavement soon followed, in the death of both parents and her husband. This heavy sorrow was the means of Mrs. Thompson's conversion; for although her husband was a godly man, she herself had not hitherto been a Christian. Her husband having lost his property in business, Mrs. Thompson became a librarian in a circulating library in Brooklyn. Whilst filling this position (in connection with which she had taken course in professional nursing in the city hospital), she met Mr. DeWitt Clinton Snyder, a young druggist, and son of an established Dutch Reformed Minister in New York, to whom she was married in April, 1885. A few weeks later Dr. and Mrs. Snyder removed to Tampa, Fl where they were living at the time of their appointment to Africa, in June 1892.

Just after the death of Mr. Lapsley, Mrs. Snyder stated that she had been interested in missions all her life, and that for years she and her husband had desires to go to Africa. They sailed from New York August 31st 1892.

Mrs. Snyder was exceedingly bright and attractive, with engaging manners and much personal magnetism. But valuable as were her natural gifts, the chief charm of her life was its spiritual element, which suffused her whole life with its glow. The high order of her faith, her patience, tireless zeal, self-abnegation and Christian devotion, have been abundantly manifest in her work in the heart of the Dark Continent, in the midst of low degraded tribes of savages. Her life and death are a shining illustration of the fact that the days of heroes and heroines on the mission field are not past.

