

Edward Cross

GOD'S SAINT WHO FROM HIS LABORS RESTS

Details of Death and Fun- eral of Rev. Edward W. Cross.

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The newspaper accounts state that Dr. Cross had spent the day at his church duties and had returned to his home in the early evening when he was stricken by the fatal heart attack. "News of his death," says the account, "stunned the members of his congregation and fellow clergymen, many of whom had talked to him only yesterday afternoon."

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here than 30 ministers, members of the Springfield Ministers' Association and of the Springfield Council of Churches, attended in a body as did members of the Saturday Night club, of which Dr. Cross had been a member.

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Tributes to the memory of Dr. Cross were paid by the pastors of a number of Springfield churches at their Sunday services following his death. At his own church, where he had planned to hold an All Saints day service and communion, there was held instead a meditation service at which Dr. Potter gave the address on the text, "Look up to the hills, from whence cometh thy strength."

Signally Honored.

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Dr. Cross was born in Cannon Falls, Minn., Feb. 12, 1835, the son of Rowland Stevenson and Mary Elizabeth (Weeks) Cross. He received his A. B. degree from Carleton college in 1907, attended Union Theological Seminary from 1909 to 1910 and received his B. D. degree from Oberlin College Graduate School of Theology in 1911.

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gregational ministry in 1911 and served as pastor at Livingston, Montana, until 1915 when he was called to assume the pastorate in Grinnell, where he served until going to the Richmond Hill church in 1925. In 1923 he received the degree of Doctor of Divinity from Grinnell college.

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He is survived by his wife, Bessie (Daugherty) Cross, one daughter, Elizabeth, a student in Carleton college, two sons, Robert and Rowland, both at home, his mother, Mrs. Mary E. Cross of Minnesota, two brothers, Rev. Rowland M. Cross of China and Willard Cross of Faribault, Minn., and four sisters, Mrs. F. A. Burnquist of Minnesota, Miss Margaret Cross of Washington, D. C., Miss Helen Cross of San Francisco and Miss Lena Cross of China.

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Tributes by Fellow Minister

Tributes brought by fellow ministers on the occasion of untimely death of Dr. Cross eloquent and sincere. The following from Rev. Dr. Earl V. moderator of the Hampton Association of Congregational Churches and Ministers, is typical.

"A more happy, spirited among the clergy one could hardly imagine. A more sympathetic pastor one could not find where. A more sacrificing friend to all, big and little alike, would not pray for. His heart and radiant face were instant inspiration to all knew him. His sound counsel rich Christian experience always at the disposal of all sought them day or night.

"He was a tower of divinity to all whom he ministered in the name of his Master among men. God must have a tremendous job for him elsewhere to take him away soon. We are at a loss to know what so say. We just trust judgment of his God and our This is a tribute to which the Grinnell people who I Dr. Cross during his residence here will respond with a for "Amen."

Rev. E. W. Cross "Did His Bit"

4-5-1939
Any account of Grinnell's participation in the World War would be incomplete without a short statement of the contribution which Rev. E. W. Cross made toward the defeat of the German forces and the triumph of democracy. Envious as his war record may be, it gains added force from the fact that, as a minister of the gospel, he was not required to go to the front and as a Y secretary he was not required to carry stretchers; and yet he did all of these and more too.

It was on August 31, 1917, that the pastor of the Congregational church announced his appointment to an overseas secretaryship in the Y. M. C. A. and his expected early departure for the western front. Not wishing to go counter to the convictions of their pastor, the members of the congregation granted him leave of absence and bade him farewell.

During the succeeding fall and winter, Rev. Mr. Cross was kept busy constructing his canteen and planning entertainment for both soldiers and civilians immediately in the rear of the fighting line. Lacking funds to put on the type of a Christmas party he wished, he used some of his own funds to buy presents for the doughboys of his division.

The latter part of July, 1918, word was received here that Mr. Cross had been wounded while carrying stretchers in the Chateau Thierry sector, although this was entirely outside of his line of duty as a "Y" secretary. The wound proved to be a light one and he was soon back in the harness again.

His next attempt to act as a stretcher bearer was not destined to end so easily. On October 18, while carrying a litter in no man's land, he and a score of other Americans were caught in a German barrage and had to seek shelter in shell holes. When the bar-

rage had passed, it was found that three had been killed and twelve wounded, Mr. Cross among the latter.

On his return from southern France where he had been sent to recover from his wounds, Mr. Cross was commissioned a first lieutenant in the American army and during the rest of the war served as an army chaplain. As an officer in one of the divisions assigned to the Rhineland he was one of the first Americans to cross the bridgehead into German territory.

During the time that he was a member of the army of the occupation, Mr. Cross supplemented his regular duties by establishing a school for the instruction of some of the uneducated members of his regiment. It was not until March 1919 that he was discharged and able to return to his pastorate in Grinnell.

A notable tribute to Mr. Cross' bravery and devotion to duty is contained in the following passage from Katherine Mayo's book, "That Damn" Y. "In Villers — Turnelle — perhaps with Coullemelle, the hottest point in the Montdidier-Amiens advance front line, worked three good Y men, W. T. Howell of Detroit, E. W. Cross Murray Bartlett, clergy all.

"Made acting chaplains by the name of their regiment, they bled the dead. They acted as stretcher bearers for the wounded. They hunted out the stranded in no man's land and brought them in. And still they ran their canteens and their welfare work besides. Real workers those three, single eyed for the moment's job."

EDWARD WEEKS CROSS

Dr. Edward W. Cross, whose ministry in First Congregational Church, Springfield, Mass., began about two years ago, succumbed to a heart attack at his home on November 2 at the early age of 54.

Dr. Cross was born in Cannon Falls, Minn., the son of Rowland Stevenson Cross and Mary Elizabeth Cross. He graduated from Carleton College in 1907, and took his theological training in Union Theological Seminary and Oberlin College. He received the D. D. degree from Grinnell College in 1920. He was ordained in 1911 and served Congregational pastorates at Livingston, Mont., for four years; at Grinnell, Ia., 1915-1925 with the exception of months spent in war service in France; and in Union Church, Richmond Hill, Long Island, N. Y. from 1925 to 1937. Dr. Cross' war service was of distinction, first as a Y.M.C.A. secretary with the First Division, A.E.F., and later as chaplain with the Sixteenth Infantry, Army of Occupation. He was wounded in the battle of Soissons, and was cited for bravery.

Dr. Cross was a former chairman of the Commission on Evangelism and Devotional Life, and in recent years was President of the Home Board of Missions. He had also served as moderator of the New York City Congregational Association and as moderator of the New York State Congregational Conference.

His pastorates in the Middle West and East and his general denominational activities made him widely known in our fellowship, and he was held in the highest esteem by all who knew him. The tributes to his memory from



WOMEN'S CHAPEL

REV. EDW. W. CROSS DIES OF HEART ATTACK

H-R Nov 6, 1939

Was Pastor of Grinnell Congregational Church From 1915 to 1925.

Coincidentally with the arrival of Rev. Leland W. Mann as pastor of the Congregational church comes word of the death from a heart attack of a greatly loved former pastor, the Rev. Edward Weeks Cross, who for several years has been the pastor of the historic Congregational church in Springfield, Mass. He went to Springfield from New York City, where he had been pastor of a Congregational church since leaving Grinnell. There had been no word of his illness and it is presumed that his death must have been unexpected. He is survived by his wife and three children, Betty, Robert and Roland. Funeral services were held Sunday afternoon.

Rev. E. W. Cross was pastor of the Grinnell church from 1915 to 1925. He came to Grinnell a young man, not long out of college. His impact on the community was immediate. His influence from his pulpit was genial and commanding and the children's sermons which he delivered each Sunday morning attracted the little folks by the score. He was a friendly man and exerted his capacity for friendship in furthering every worthy movement in the entire community. The years of his pastorate were happy and constructive years.

An Army Chaplain.

When the United States entered World War No. 1, Rev. Mr. Cross could not stay at home. He became a chaplain with an infantry regiment and saw service overseas. His first appearance after his return home was a community ovation. Every seat in the church was filled, and when the pastor, home from the wars and wearing his uniform, appeared on the platform, the audience rose and burst into spontaneous applause. The sermon which he preached that day was a memorable effort. It was a powerful indictment of war and a plea for peace and sanity in international relations.

In a notice of his death handed to the people of the Congregational church Sunday morning appeared these words: "His sphere of influence greatly exceeded the bounds of the church and his loss will be keenly felt by friends in Grinnell."

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