



Sylvia Jane James

Burden

OCTOBER 4, 1902 – AUGUST 3, 1987

Sylvia was born in Tamarack, near Calumet, Michigan. She lived in Lelant, Cornwall, England from 1904 to 1909. The family then lived in Calumet until they moved to Flint in 1921. Her father, Joseph Richard James, was one of the Methodist preachers from Cornwall who did so much for Michigan Methodism.

She joined the Methodist Church when she was 12 years old. She graduated from Calumet High School in 1919 as Valedictorian. She worked in Flint for two years before enrolling in Albion College. She met her husband, Howard Burden, while a freshman there. She graduated in 1925 with highest honors. She taught Latin and English at Capak, Michigan in 1925.

She married Howard Burden in 1926. In the fall of 1927 she went to Boston School of Theology. She received her M. A. Degree in Religious Education. She helped Howard in his ministry and always worked in the Sunday School and in the Woman's Society.

She had three children: Catherine Burden Griebner Tallady, Marjory Burden Priest, and a foster son, Gar Blight.

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She taught Lab School, Observation Schools and Schools of Religion. She was also a member of the story league and was a beloved story teller. She started two story leagues in Saginaw, Michigan when Howard was the District Superintendent there.

She and Howard loved attending Lake Louise Camp and helping with the program there while he was District Superintendent.

They were both employed part time at Trinity Methodist Church in Flint after Howard retired.

They enjoyed their time at Pickerel Lake in the summers and wintering in Florida in their later years.

Sylvia died on August 3, 1987 in Bradenton, Florida.