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OUIDA HARRISON CLAPP

Objective when the need is for clear thinking,
Unruffled when tense moments fill the air.
Insightful when a problem begs solution,
Diplomatic when harsh words might well be said.
All these portray our Ouida.

High aspirations for each child whose life she touches,
Alert to needs and meeting them in timely fashion,
Resounding faith displayed in acts not words,
Rapport with members of each group she enters,
Incisive when a pithy problem puzzles
Selfless as she meets the needs of loved ones,
Opening doors for countless untapped talent
Nurturing is our Ouida.

Courageous as she meets life's dispensations,
Loving in each family hat she wears
Ardent in disclosing heritage to hungry minds,
Paving an honest pride for future generations;
Pressing on in song and service is our Ouida.

Doris W. Givens
5/29/96



ORDER OF SERVICE

*Lincoln Memorial United Methodist Church
Buffalo, New York
October 26, 2000
12:00 Noon
Reverend Ewart Morris, Officiating*

Prelude

Processional

Invocation

Hymn *God Will Take Care of You* UMH 130

Prayer: The Lord be with you
And also with you
Let us pray
O God, who gave us birth... UMH 872

The Lord's Prayer UMH 895

Senior Choir Close to Thee

Old Testament Scriptures:
Isaiah 40:1-2, 25, 28b-31
Psalm 23 (Unison) UMH 137

Hymn *There is a Balm in Gilead* UMH 375

New Testament Scripture:
1 John 4: 7-16

Senior Choir *Oh How He Loved You and Me*

Reading of the Obituary Mrs. Doris Givens

Eulogy Reverend Morris

Hymn *It Is Well With My Soul* UMH 377

Commendation UMH 874

Dismissal with Blessing

+ + +

Interment
Forest Lawn Cemetery

OUIDA ELEANOR HARRISON CLAPP
September 8, 1924 - October 22, 2000

Ouida H. Clapp, a retired teacher and administrator with the Buffalo Public Schools died Sunday, October 22, 2000 in Buffalo General Hospital. She was seventy-six.

The former Ouida Eleanor Harrison grew up in Detroit and graduated with a bachelor's degree in English from Talladega College in Talladega, Alabama where she met her husband Claude D. Clapp. She obtained her master's degree at Wayne State University in Detroit. After teaching in Detroit at Smith School, she and Claude married and moved to Buffalo where her career began as a teacher of English. She taught English at Lafayette High School and Schools 6, 74, 8 and 53 from 1955-61. She was chair of the English Department at Genessee Humboldt Junior High from 1961-67, administrator of the Expanded Language Arts Program from 1967-69, and the Buffalo Public Schools' district Director of Language Arts from 1969-85. During these years she did additional graduate study in administration and linguistics at Buffalo State College, Canisius College, and Michigan State University. She was among the first African Americans to teach in the senior high schools and the first African American to direct a department in the Buffalo Public Schools. In 1985, Ouida and Claude-Deputy Superintendent of the Buffalo Public Schools-retired together.

Past President and Fellow of the New York State English Council, and a charter member and Past President of the Buffalo Area English Teachers Association, she had been a President and Fellow of the New York State English Teachers Association. The author of numerous articles and publications, she was a contributing Language Arts Editor of the Instructor Magazine, a senior author of the Holt English Series for Grades K-8, and the co-author of Scott Foresman's widely used American literature anthology series, America Reads. She served for many years as a Director of the National Council of Teachers of English. During the years of her Council membership, she chaired its Committee on Classroom Practices in the Teaching of English, the Committee for Spring Institutes on Teaching Minority Literatures, the Committee on Publications, and the Committee on American Literature and the American Multicultural Heritage. She is credited with introducing black and Third World characters into the major high-school textbooks for English Language Arts instruction.

Her dedication to her community was reflected through her service on numerous boards. She enjoyed especially her work with the Educational Opportunities Center, NAACP's ACT-SO, the Trocaire College Board of Trustees, Restoration Seventy-Eight, and the Buffalo Inner City Ballet.

Among her many awards are Buffalo's Martin Luther King Day Outstanding Educator Award and the Martin Luther King Committee's

Rosa Parks' Award, the Spotlight on Women Award of the Coalition of 100 Black Women, and the Sojourner Truth Meritorious Service Award of the Association of Negro and Professional Women's Clubs. Together, Ouida and Claude received the Medgar Evers Award from the NAACP in 1985. In 1975 she received the Award of Excellence from the New York State English Council and in 1978 received the Outstanding Service Award from the Black Educators Association. A Past President of Buffalo's Gamma Phi Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., she was a "Golden Soror"-having been a member for over fifty years.

When she moved to Buffalo, Ouida joined Bethel A.M.E. Church where she taught Sunday School and sang in the choir. Later, she became a member of Lincoln Memorial United Methodist Church and was active with numerous church committees. She served as the Church Historian, parliamentarian, vice-chair, and chair of the Church Council and a member of the Senior Choir. She was a co-founder of the African American Heritage Committee for which she wrote the mission statement and organized its Black History Month's "African-American Read-In Chain" to coordinate with the nation-wide program of the Black Caucus of the National Council of Teachers of English. But her legacy at Lincoln might best be expressed through her dynamic and creative directorship of the old African-American morality play, Heaven Bound, which she reclaimed from black church performances in the early years of the century and narrated as the "Herald" for Lincoln's congregations of 1995 and 1998.

Always together, and occasionally with their daughters or grandchildren, Ouida and Claude traveled widely in the United States, Canada, and Europe. They visited several African countries, valuing especially their stay in Nigeria and trips to Egypt, and they enjoyed travels in Israel, Jordan, Brazil, Haiti, India, Russia, China, and Japan. After her 1985 retirement from the school system, she cherished helping her daughter Dr. Leslie Clapp in her private pediatric practice, serving as office manager from 1988 through 1993.

Her daughter Karen Andrea Clapp Graves and grandson Bem K. Holloway preceded her in death. She is survived by her husband of fifty-three years Claude D. and two daughters: Karla F.C. Holloway, Ph.D. who is the Kenan Professor of English and Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences at Duke University, and Leslie E. Clapp, M.D., pediatrician and founder of Main Pediatrics in Buffalo; sons-in-law Russell Holloway and Michael Ezie; grandchildren Aziza and Akili Graves, Ayana Holloway, and Chinyere, Kelechi, Chisara and Chiemeka Ezie; her brother William L. Harrison, Jr., Ph.D, her uncle Warren Alexander Harrison and cousin Alexander Warren Thomas, sister-in-law Johnetta Clapp Mosby and many devoted nieces, nephews, cousins and friends who mourn her passing and celebrate her loving example, joyous spirit, and indefatigable optimism.

Organist

Diane Poe Schroeder

Pallbearers

Emmanuel Chukwuezi

David Edmunds

Bolingo Azubuike Kalu-Nwiwu

George Nicholas

Kevin Patterson

Alonzo Thompson

Acknowledgment

The family sincerely thanks all those who enriched Mrs. Clapp's days with thoughtfulness, acts of kindness, and prayers. Each was joyfully received by Mrs. Clapp, and is gratefully appreciated by her family.

*Lives of great ones all remind us we can make our lives sublime.
And departing leave behind us footprints on the sands of time.*

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