

ORIGINATOR OF MEMORIAL DAY IS DEAD

The following article from the Malden (Mass.) News, will be of interest to Bandon people because Mrs. Redpath was an aunt of two well-known Bandon ladies, Mrs. Timmons and Mrs. Wilson:

"Mrs. Mary Cotton Redpath, widow of James Redpath, a distinguished nonagenarian, who had been a resident of this city for nearly half a century, passed away yesterday afternoon at her home on Maple Street, in her 91st year. She was the originator of Memorial Day, a great anti-slavery worker and, with her husband, who was at the head of the Redpath Lyceum bureau, enjoyed an intimate acquaintanceship with Henry Ward Beecher, Sumner, Douglas, Wendell Phillips and other great men. Her home on Maple street was the northern station for the underground railroad for the assistance of fleeing slaves from the South to Canada. Mrs. Redpath had been ill since May, and old age and a general breaking up was the cause.

Mary Cotton Redpath born Nov. 8, 1823, at Cotton Valley, Wolfboro, N. H., and was a lineal descendant of Col. William Cotton of Gov. Thomas Wentworth's staff, the first settler in the valley. She was educated at the Young Ladies Seminary at Charles town. Early in life she was married to Ezra Taylor Kidder of Sudbury and Boston. Two children were born of this marriage, Caroline M., who survives her mother, and Dudley Taylor Kidder. She was again married, a few years before the Civil war, to James Redpath of Berwick-on-Tweed, England.

Mr. Redpath was a noted journalist, correspondent, author and editor. He was an active and influential Irish sympathizer, numbering many devoted friends among the Irish residents of this city and Boston. He was also an ardent abolitionist, and was intimately associated with men prominent in this work, among them Henry Ward Beecher, Charles Sumner, Frederick Douglass, Wendell Phillips, Gerrit Smith and William Lloyd Garrison.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Redpath on Maple street was for many years one of the northern stations of the "underground railroad" for the assistance of slaves escaping from the south into Canada, where they attained freedom. The picturesque Sojourner Truth, a militant runaway, came to the Redpaths, seeking inspiration and support in her crusades for liberty. With them also John Brown of Kansas passed hours in consultation and preparation prior to the celebrated and disastrous raid at Harper's Ferry.

Mrs. Redpath was with her husband in Charleston, S. C., when Gen. Sherman's famous march to the sea terminated in that city. Mr. Redpath, who was on Gen. Sherman's staff, and who had been war correspondent for the New York Tribune, volunteered to act as superintendent of education for the city and outlying districts, and it was during their residence in Charleston that James and Mary Redpath suggested and inaugurated Decoration Day and the custom of decorating the graves of Union soldiers. The direct cause of this, and incidents connected with the occurrence, have been described by Mrs. Redpath as follows:

"Shortly after my arrival in Charleston I was shocked by the condition of the so-called graves of Union soldiers on the Race Course, on the outskirts of the city. This place had been set aside as a prison corral during the war, and our men had been buried as they died from exposure or disease, in the very troughs they had burrowed for themselves in the ground as protection against the weather. The majority of these graves were unmarked and the field was uncultivated. My husband and myself, and our friends, formed a committee for consideration of the matter, and a memorial addressed to the loyal people of South Carolina was issued, calling upon everyone in the state to aid in the erection of a monument and a suitable fence to protect it and to surround the place of burial. Response was promptly and generously made by freedmen and others, and in May, 1865, a great memorial service was held in Zion's church.

"As its close, escorted by a detachment of the regiment which under Gen. Hatch occupied the citadel of Charleston, and accompanied by a handful of whites and a large host of negroes, we proceeded to the Race Course. On the previous day the colored people had gathered great quantities of spring flowers which they carried to decorate the graves. Mr. Redpath and I rode in an open carriage with Gen. Hatch and another member of the committee. The enthusiasm was intense. When the procession formed freedmen removed the horses from the carriage and dragged it to the cemetery. The people surged around us, waving their flowers and chanting the weird, stirring songs of their race. When we reached the burial ground the graves of the soldiers were heaped with myrtle, the small yellow rose called cloth-of-gold, and other southern blossoms. Our return was made at night, by moonlight, under avenues of cypress trees hung with grey moss, the negroes still singing as they marched their poignantly sad or strangely exulting hymns."

James Redpath returned to Boston a year later, and established there, in partnership with George L. Fall, what was first known as the Boston, and later as the Redpath Lyceum Bureau. This bureau was the first one of its kind. Among the early names enrolled were those of Anna Dickinson, Wendell Phillips and John B. Gough. Later were added Beecher, the humorists Nasby and Billings, Artemas Ward and Mark Twain and Theodore Tilton, Bayard Taylor and James T. Fields. All these and others, closely identified with the political and literary life of the period, were constant visitors at the house on Maple Street. There, too, came Walt Whitman, and it became the custom of the Redpaths to walk with the poet, towards the end of day, to "Sunset Rock," on the road now known as Highland avenue, which in those days crossed a hillside field. Here Whitman would sit until dark, discussing vital questions with these congenial friends.

Mary Redpath was a woman of deep spiritual insight and broad sympathies, and much of her life was spent in philanthropic work. In religion she was eclectic, seeking truth in every form, and finding much to accept in all. She was sprung from a race of preachers, and she delighted to expound the sacred writing according to her own interpretations. These were always interesting, and they were frequently impressive. In the late sixties Charles Kingsley, Dean of Westminster and author of "Hypatia," and other classics of English literature, came to this country to lecture. Attracted by Mrs. Redpath's unusual powers of conversation and by her intuitive transcendentalism the great English divine spent many hours in her home, literally sitting at the feet of this quiet and secluded American woman who in many ways resembled the progressive heroine of Kingsley's well-known novel.

Mrs. Redpath is survived by her daughter, Mrs. William F. Morse, of New York City, Mrs. Frank J. Pool of Cleveland, a granddaughter, and the following nephews and nieces: William Dudley Cotton and N. Hugh Cotton of Boston, Rev. Evan Cotton, of Damariscotta, Me., Leslie Cotton of New York City, Countess Victor von Wildorf of Dresden, Saxony, and Miss Ethel Cotton.

In Bandon, Oregon, there are also two nieces, Mrs. C. Timmons, and Mrs. Sophia Wilson, who spent nearly a year with her aunt recently at her home. Their mother Mrs. Isaac Rich was a sister of Mrs. Redpath.

REPUBLICAN TICKET Election 1914.

- For U. S. Senator
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- For Congress
W. C. Hawley
- For Governor
James Withycombe
- For Justice of the Supreme Court
Henry J. Bean, Lawrence T. Harris, Thomas McBride, Henry L. Benson, Charles L. McNary
- For Attorney General
George M. Brown
- For Supt of Public Instruction
J. A. Churchill
- For State Engineer
John M. Lewis
- For Commissioner of Labor
O. P. Hoff
- For Railroad Commissioner
Frank J. Miller
- For Supt. Water Div. No. 1
James T. Chinnock
- For Representative 5th Dist.
Charles R. Barrows
- For Representative 6th Dist.
S. P. Pierce
- For County Judge
James Watson
- For Sheriff
Alfred Johnson, Jr.
- For County Clerk
Robt. R. Watson
- For County Treasurer
T. M. Dimmick
- For County Surveyor
C. S. McCulloch
- For County Coroner
F. E. Wilson
- For County Commissioner
Geo. J. Armstrong
- For Commissioners Port of Bandon
A. McNair and C. R. Moore

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LODGE DIRECTORY

Masonic.
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PHIL PEARSON, Secretary.

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Occidental Chapter, No. 45, O. E. S., meets Saturday evenings before and after stated communications of Masonic lodge. Visiting members cordially invited to attend.
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ROSA BINGAMAN, Secretary.

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Rebekah
Ocean Rebekah Lodge, No. 126, I. O. O. F., meets second and fourth Tuesdays at I. O. O. F. hall. Transient members cordially invited.
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MINERVA LEWIN, Secretary.

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W. A. KELLER, C. C.
C. M. GAGE, Clerk.

I. O. O. F.
Bandon Lodge, No. 133, I. O. O. F., meets every Wednesday evening. Visiting brothers in good standing cordially invited.
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