

Nellie Bradley

(– 13 Feb 1927)

Bradley On Sunday, February 13, 1927, Mrs. Nelia H. Bradley, widow of F.M. Bradley, in the 89th year of her age. Funeral Tuesday, February 15, at 2:30 p.m. from the chapel of W.W. Chambers Co., 14th st. corner of Chapin n.w. Relatives and friends invited.

The Evening Star, February 14, 1927, p. 7

Mrs. .H. Bradley Dies At Age of 88

Writer of Songs and Civil War "Camp Angel" Passes Away

"Stella," author of many familiar temperance songs and angel of the camps and hospitals during the Civil War, died here last night at the age of 88. She was Mrs. Nellie H. Bradley, widow of F.M. Bradley, and daughter of the late Henry Harper Hazard and Mrs. Harriet Amanda Bibb Hazard.

Mrs. Annie Hazard Bugbee of Takoma Park, D.C., Mrs. Bradley's sister, recalls that during the Civil War Mr. and Mrs. Bradley visited hospitals here day and night, caring for the injured soldiers, cheering them up and entertaining them. During that period Mrs. Bradley wrote many patriotic songs which her sister would sing in the hospitals.

Active Temperance Worker

After the war Mrs. Bradley turned her attention to temperance activities. She wrote dozens of songs, which were known everywhere in the days when the banner of temperance was carried by a small band of women. Some of the more familiar writings that came from the pen of "Stella" were: "Don't Sell Poor Father Rum." "I'll Marry No Man if He Drinks," "Let Me Die at Home" and "Father's a Drunkard, Mother Is Dead."

The last one will be remembered by many who recall the old days of swinging doors. Mrs. Bradley wrote it after she had found a waif on the street and befriended her. It begins:

Out in the gloomy night
Sadly I roam;
I have no mother dear.
No pleasant home.

Nobody cares for me
No one would cry
If poor little Becky
Even should die.

On the damp ground
I must now lay my head;
Father's a drunkard
And mother is dead.

Writer of Plays

In addition to her songs "Stella" wrote many plays, cantatas and pageants on the subject of temperance which were publicly presented by children.

She was one of the early members of the Vermont Avenue Christian Church and of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, serving as superintendent of the literature department t of the latter organization until she was past 80 years of age.

Besides her sister, she leaves five nieces and nine nephews.

Funeral services will be conducted at the chapel of W.W. Chambers, undertaker, tomorrow afternoon at 2:30 o'clock. Interment will be in Congressional Cemetery.