

# “Little Margaret Reynolds Dead”

An Obituary Written by Olin S. Dean for the *Jackson County Journal*

September 2, 1915

MSS 80-59, Folder 7. A.C. Reynolds Collection.

Hunter Library Special Collections, Western Carolina University

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For ENGL 618: Research Methods in English

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## Introduction to the Series

This transcription and its attendant annotations, explanatory material, and bibliography were prepared by students in ENGL 618: Research Methods in English, the required gateway class for the MA in English at Western Carolina University. The learning outcomes for this class include the following:

1. Conduct appropriate, effective, and ethical scholarship
  1. Effectively find and use advanced research tools (handbooks, databases, guides, bibliographies, etc.) appropriate to a subject.
    - Students will be able to use a wide variety of such tools and evaluate those tools.
  2. Find appropriate advanced research (print and electronic scholarship) and apply that research to specific disciplinary questions or issues.
    - Students will be able to find a variety of scholarship, evaluate both the appropriateness and rigor of that scholarship, and incorporate that scholarship correctly and effectively.
  3. Develop accurate bibliographies and reference citations.
    - Students will be able to annotate, abstract, and cite materials following standard MLA format.
2. Understand the process by which the texts we use are made available.
  - Students will be able to conduct basic editorial work and evaluate the editorial work of others.

All work is presented as submitted by the students. While these students take great care with their transcriptions and annotations, errors are always possible. As these students learn throughout this class, good scholarship requires checking of sources and corroboration by authoritative sources.

It is hoped that the transcription and annotation of WCU Special Collections materials will be useful to the institution, students, scholars, and other patrons and users of WCU's Special Collections materials.

## Introduction

This edition is created from the manuscript of an obituary prepared by Olin S. Dean on the death of three-year-old Margaret Cornelia Reynolds, which was subsequently published in the *Jackson County Journal*. Margaret was the daughter of the second president of Cullowhee Normal and Industrial School (Western Carolina University), A.C. Reynolds. Reynolds served in his role as the president from 1912-1920. Along with his service at Western Carolina University, he was also influential in establishing Rutherford College in Brevard, N.C. Reynolds is also well known for making major contributions to education in Buncombe and Jackson County.

Dean, the author of the manuscript, served as the assistant to A.C. Reynolds at Cullowhee Normal and Industrial School from 1912-1917, as well as serving as an English and French professor. During the first faculty meeting on September 1, 1912 he was elected Secretary of the Board and remained in the position until 1917. His manuscript on Margaret is a unique document in the collection of A.C. Reynolds, who remains one of the most influential figures in education in western North Carolina.

### “A Welcome from Children in Heaven” – The Poem

Olin S. Dean includes a poem at the end of the manuscript. This poem appears in multiple publications, which date back as early as September 1897, where it was published in *Good Housekeeping*. *Good Housekeeping*, a monthly publication, proclaimed it was “conducted in the higher interest on the household” (“The History of *Good Housekeeping*”). Topics such as home duties, food, poetry, being a good spouse and mother, and house services are covered in the periodical. This particular poem, titled “A Welcome from Children in Heaven,” appeared in the “Mother’s and Children” section as follows:

“Oh, what do you think the angels say?”  
Said the children up in Heaven;  
“There’s a dear little girl coming home to-day,  
She’s almost ready to fly away  
From the earth we used to live in;

Let's go and open the gates of pearl,  
Open them wide for the new little girl,"  
Said the children up in heaven.

"God wanted her here, where His little ones meet,"  
Said the children up in Heaven;  
"She shall play with us in the golden street;  
She had grown too fair, she had grown too sweet  
For the earth we used to live in;  
She needed the sunshine this dear little girl,  
That gilds this side of the gates of pearl,"  
Said the children up in Heaven.

"So the King called down from the angels' dome,"  
Said the children up in Heaven;  
"My little darling, arise and come  
To the place prepared in the Father's home,  
The home that my children live in;  
Let's go and watch at the gates of pearl,  
Ready to welcome the new little girl,"  
Said the angels up in Heaven.

"Far down on earth do you hear them weep?"  
Said the children up in Heaven;  
"For the dear little girl has gone to sleep!  
The shadows fall and the night clouds sweep  
O'er the earth we used to live in;  
But we'll go and open the gates of pearl!  
Oh, why do they weep for their dear little girl?"  
Said the children up in Heaven.

“Fly with her quickly, oh, angels dear,”  
Said the children up in Heaven.  
See—she is coming! Look there! Look there!  
At the jasper light on her sunny hair,  
Where the veiling clouds are riven!  
Ah—hush—hush—hush all the swift wings furl!  
For the King Himself at the gates of pearl  
Is taking her hand, dear, tired little girl,  
And leading her into Heaven” (125)

*Good Housekeeping* attributes the poem to *Woman’s World*. While the original publication is still unknown, the *Woman’s World* referred to is most likely a publication printed in Chicago from 1884-1940. Like *Good Housekeeping*, this magazine focused on women’s interest in the home and society (“Woman’s World”).

Dean transcribed the poem with a few changes to the wording; one of the most significant is “at the radiant light on her golden hair,” whereas the poem in *Good Housekeeping*, in line 36 states “at the jasper light on her sunny hair” (125). Perhaps Dean is referring to Margaret’s blonde hair in order to draw a deeper connection between the poem and Margaret. Another significant change is Dean omitting the word “tired” when the *Good Housekeeping* poem states “dear, tired, little girl” in line 40 (125). By omitting “tired,” Dean’s edition of the poem focuses less on the sickness endured by Margaret. Dean excludes a large portion of the poem, most likely for space and print purposes.

The poem made several other appearances. In October 1903, *The Lutheran Observer* published it in a section titled “For the Children.” That version also includes some minor variants. For example, in line 24 *Good Housekeeping* changes a line to “said the angels up in Heaven” (125). *The Lutheran Observer* keeps the line “said the children up in Heaven” (24). Only few additional minor changes are made throughout and the author line only states “Selected” in this publication (24).

In March 1905, the poem once again appears in a periodical: *Weekly Times Melbourne* in the section titled “Young Folks by Aunt Connie.” This version includes a major variant from the 1897 edition. There are changes such as using “pined” where *Good Housekeeping* published

“needed” in line 14. *Weekly Times Melbourne* published only 25 lines of the poem opposed to the 41 lines in *Good Housekeeping*, omitting large chunks of the middle and creating a closer resemblance to the 18 lines written by O.S. Dean in the manuscript.

Similarly, in 1911, the poem appears in *The Phonographic World and Commercial School Review*, in a section titled “Odd and Beautiful, or Rare and Unfamiliar Poems.” The publication is defined by the New York Library Special Collections as “a magazine for stenographers and typewriter operators.” This specific volume contains information about shorthand, education, and technology and the decline of spelling. The version found here is most similar to the *Good Housekeeping* version, with the majority of changes focusing on punctuation and capitalization. In line 27 *Good Housekeeping* states “For the dear little girl has gone to sleep!” (125), and *The Phonographic World and Commercial School Review* states “for the dear little girl has gone asleep!” (20). *The Phonographic World and Commercial School Review* also attribute the poem to “author unknown.”

The poem makes appearances in periodicals sporadically and with no attribution to an author. The variations of the poem change some details; however, some lines are unchanged in each edition, such as the opening two lines “Oh what do you think the angles say/said the children up in heaven.” The poem is mostly published in the sections for children in the periodicals I have found. Lacking the publication in *Woman’s World* I am unable to date the poem any earlier than 1897.

### **Editor’s Note**

This edition of Margaret Reynolds obituary is a diplomatic edition and because of such it is transcribed to recreate the original presentation and authenticity of the document written by O.S. Dean. Dean’s penmanship is legible which allows for an accurate transcription. The transcription follows the document in order of page-by-page to adhere as closely as possible to the original document. Indentations are made throughout to replicate the spacing in the manuscript. Page breaks are utilized to represent each page of the original document. Header information is included to indicate where a new page begins in the original document and this document is paginated at the bottom for reference. There have been no changes made to

grammatical features, spelling or context. Footnotes are used in areas where additional information can be provided in order for the reader to gain clarity and background information.

The manuscript was handwritten, one-sided, on three-hole, loose-leaf notebook paper. The document is in excellent condition and has been unaffected by age. There is a small indentation in the top right corner which appears to be where the paper was held together by a paperclip. The document is housed in the Western Carolina University Special and Digital Collections in the A.C. Reynolds Collection, MSS 80-59, folder 7.

## Little Margaret Reynolds Dead

The entire community of Cullowhee was made sad by the death<sup>1</sup> of bright little Margaret Reynolds<sup>2</sup>. Scores of school girls, into whose arms she rushed again and again in gleeful sport will shed tears at the news. A large circle of friends and loved ones mourn the early going away of this dear little one.

Margaret was born November the third, nineteen hundred and eleven, and died August the twenty-ninth, nineteen hundred and fifteen, being thus three years and nearly ten months old. We buried her body by the side of that of her little brother<sup>3</sup>, who had gone on before, in the cemetery in West Asheville<sup>4</sup>.

It was distinctly noticeable that Margaret was possessed of striking individuality. Even when little more than an infant she displayed signs of an unusual originality. She was independent, aggressive. She gave promise of being a strong and useful woman.

Those who were closely acquainted with her observed often that she had a keen sense of humor that sparkled in her blue eyes and spread a smile on the faces of all around. She enjoyed a good joke and was a precious little sport-maker herself, ~~to the~~<sup>5</sup> greatly to the delight of her

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<sup>1</sup> The North Carolina State Board of Health Certificate of Death shows primary cause of death as Acute Nephritis with a contributing cause of Acute Adenitis.

<sup>2</sup> Margaret Cornelia Reynolds the daughter to A.C. Reynolds (1870 - 1953) who served as the second president of Cullowhee Normal and Industrial School (Western Carolina University), from 1912 to 1920. He was instrumental in establishing Rutherford College, in Brevard, NC.

<sup>3</sup> Alonzo Carlton Jr (1905-1906) has an unmarked grave (Lot 41, Sec A, Grave No. 8A) in the A.C. Reynolds family plot at Green Hills Cemetery in West Asheville.

<sup>4</sup> Margaret has an unmarked grave (Lot 41, Sec A, Grave No. 8B) in the A.C. Reynolds family plot at Green Hills Cemetery in West Asheville.

<sup>5</sup> Transcribed to indicate the words marked out in the original document



friends and associates.

To those who knew her best and loved her most, her most marked characteristic was her high sense of honor and her peculiar regard for the truth. In her last sickness<sup>6</sup> when there happened to occur some slight intimation that she was not willing to do just the right thing about taking her medicine her little heart was hurt, because she felt that she was doubted. She was patient and cheerful, wide awake and conscious to the very awake to the very last, exhibiting a sweetness of spirit that would put to shame many that are older.

As we watched the departure of this precious little life for the other and higher sphere we could not but say with the poet<sup>7</sup>:

“Oh, what do you think the Angels say?  
Said the children up in heaven.  
“There’s a dear little girl coming home to-day,  
“She’s about ready to fly away  
From the earth we used to live in.  
Let us go and wait by the gate of Pearl,  
Which is opened wide for the dear little girl”  
Said the children up in heaven.  
“Fly with her quickly, ye Angels dear,”  
Said the children up in heaven.  
“See! Now she’s coming; Oh, look! Look there  
at the radiant light on her golden hair,

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<sup>6</sup> Margaret was attended to by Dr. Ed J. Bryson from August 17, 1915-August 29, 1915

<sup>7</sup> See Introduction for information

Where the golden clouds are riven.”  
But hush –hush—hush! All the swift  
wings furl,  
For Jesus himself at the gate of Pearl,  
Is taking her hand, dear little girl,  
And is leading her into\_\_ Heaven.

O.S. Dean<sup>8</sup>

Cullowhee, N.C. September 2, 1915<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> Olin S. Dean was the Assistant to President A.C. Reynolds from 1912-1917. He served as an English and French professor, as well as being elected Secretary of the Board, during his time at Western Carolina University. He was also the first President at Weaver College prior to working with Reynolds.

<sup>9</sup> Published September 3, 1915 in the Jackson County Journal

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