

[Richards, Louis J.]

Former Pastor of Fort Plain Dies Suddenly

FORT PLAIN—June 7.—The Rev. Louis J. Richards, a number of years ago minister of the Universalist Church here, died suddenly Sunday afternoon at his home in Tarpon Springs, Fla., of a heart attack.

For a number of years he had been minister of the Church of The Good Shepherd in that city. Each Summer Mr. and Mrs. Richards came back to Fort Plain to visit at the home of their son, Clare Richards.

The Rev. Mr. Richards was born in Wales, and came to this country when a small boy. He had been a resident of Florida since 1920. The Rev. and Mrs. Richards were planning to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on June 13. His son, Clare Richards, left Sunday for Tarpon Springs.

Survivors include his wife, of Tarpon Springs, Fla.; one son, Clare Richards, Fort Plain; two daughters, Mrs. M. [Moye] C. [Dympna] Dowling, Jr., of Detroit, Mich., and Mrs. Ralph Burdick, Baltimore, Md.; also three granddaughters.

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REV. LOUIS J. RICHARDS

The Rev. Louis J. Richards, pastor of the Church of the Good Shepherd (Universalist) in Tarpon Springs, Florida, for the past twenty-two years, was stricken on June 4, as he was preparing to go to church for the Sunday service. He died in the afternoon. During his pastorate, the Innes Paintings were given to this society when its edifice had been seriously damaged by a storm. Mrs. George Innes induced her husband to paint several panels which would take the place of memorial windows. The famous artist gladly painted "The Only Hope" and "The Lord is in His Temple" for this church. Tourists in Tarpon Springs always visited the church with Mr. and Mrs. Richards serving as lecturers on these paintings.

Mr. Richards was a graduate of Baylor University at Waco, Texas. He was also a student at Bucknell University and the University of Rochester. He taught school at Scranton several years, and then entered the Universalist ministry with his first pastorate at Sharpville, Pa. His other pastorates were at Fort Plain; Baltimore, Md.; Stoughton and Orange, Mass.; then Tarpon Springs. During World War I he was with the Y.M.C.A. in France. His marriage to Miss Vivian Blair occurred in 1896. In Tarpon Springs he was a charter member of Rotary and active in Masonic circles. He is survived by his wife; a son, Clare R. Richards of Fort Plain; two daughters, Mrs. Ralph Brundick of Baltimore and Mrs. M. [Moye] C. [Dympna] Dowling of Battle Creek, Mich., and two granddaughters.

*Empire State Universalist, Cortland NY, September 1944*

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