

## Mary Louise Love Elliott

Mary Louise Love was born in Madison, Tennessee on November 28, 1883. She was the first child of Robert Exum Love (1851-1941) and Roberta Love Chadwell (1857-1927). Her younger sister Dorothy recalled in an article published in the Nashville Banner in 1978 that Madison was “just a stop in the road with a general store and a blacksmith shop”. Her family were farmers, residing on land which her grandfather had farmed and then bequeathed in parcels to his six children.

Mary Louise attended grammar school in Madison. She graduated from public school, not quite sixteen, in May 1899. According to her diploma she was proficient (as were all graduates) in orthography, reading, writing, arithmetic, English grammar, geography, history of Tennessee, United States history, elementary geology of Tennessee, elementary principles of agriculture, elements of algebra, elements of plane geometry, elements of natural philosophy, bookkeeping, elementary physiology and hygiene, elements of civil government, rhetoric or higher English and elocution.

She went on to attend Ward Seminary, then at 15 Spruce Street in Nashville. As her sister relates, they would “take the Gallatin accommodation (train) to Ward Seminary”. She said “it wasn’t a bad trip because she rode the train with boys from Madison who attended Vanderbilt, Montgomery Bell Academy and other private schools”. Mary Louise graduated with a diploma in the Seminary Course in May 1901. Along the way she obtained Certificates of Proficiency in Freshman French (1900), and Junior Geometry (1900). She was awarded Certificates of Promotion in Physical Culture (1900), Junior Essay (1900), Sophomore Elocution (1900), and Junior English Literature (1900). She is pictured in the senior class picture of 1901. She continued her studies and received a Certificate of Proficiency in Elocution (1902) and graduated with a diploma from the the seminary School of Elocution (1902).

In the next few years she traveled extensively, visiting her father who was farming in Delta County in Western Colorado, visiting friends in Louisville, Kentucky and traveling to Washington, D.C. While in Washington in 1903 she was invited by President Theodore Roosevelt to attend two receptions at the White House. The invitations were delivered to the office of Congressman John C. Bell of Colorado, a Tennessee native who was that new state’s first representative.

While visiting Louisville in 1903 she attended a party given by a local dentist, Dr. Eaton, for dental students from the College of Dentistry. There she met soon to be Dr. Edward Cronly Elliott from Lexington, Kentucky. He was a graduate of the University of Kentucky where he helped found the local chapter of the fraternity Pi Kappa Alpha and had played on the school’s football, baseball and first basketball teams. That initial encounter evolved and on January 30, 1907 they

were married in Madison. The couple settled in Lexington where he had established his dental practice. They resided most of their married life at 8 Mentelle Park. They had two children, Richard Gill Elliott, M.D. and Dorothy Love Elliott. Dorothy attended Ward Belmont as a boarding student. She graduated in 1937.

Mary Louise was very active civically and socially. She was a member of First United Methodist Church, Federated Church Women's Organization, and the Women's Society for Christian Service. She was an active member of the United Daughters of the Confederacy. For forty years she served on the board and was treasurer of "The Old Ladies Home" (now Ashland Terrace), an independent living facility for older women originally founded in 1849. She was a member of the Women's Club of Central Kentucky, the Pierian Club and a member and past president of the Sinawik (Kiwanis wives) Club. She maintained her lifelong love of reading, her home was filled with books of all kinds.

Her husband passed away in 1962. She continued to live independently in Lexington until the last year of her life, at which time she moved to join her daughter in St. Albans, West Virginia. After suffering a stroke, she passed away on January 22, 1969 at age 85. At the time of her death she was survived by her daughter and seven grandchildren. As of this writing, September 2022, her descendants number 15 great grand children and 24 great great grandchildren. She had lived a long and very full life.

Aug-11-1901



MISS MARY LOUISE LOVE,

The beautiful daughter of Mrs. R. E. Love, of Madison Station. Miss Love was a member of the Graduating Class at Ward's, and will enter society this winter.