

Grace Ruth Meeker

(1865 – 1947)

Grace Meeker, seventh Kansas DAR State Regent, was born February 5, 1865, in Franklin, New York. In 1870, the Meeker family moved to Ottawa, Kansas. She was librarian at the Ottawa Public Library for fifteen years and a naturalist, who wrote several books on native plants. Grace was a charter member of General Edward Hand Chapter.

Due to an unexpected vacancy in the State Regent's office, Mrs. William E. Stanley, Vice President General, requested that the National Board appoint Grace Meeker in February, 1909, to fill the unexpired term until the confirmation of the elected State Regent at Continental Congress in April, 1909. Even though Miss Meeker served as State Regent for only a few months, her contribution as State Regent came at a critical time for the State Society and it was deemed enough to make her an Honorary State Regent.

Her greatest contribution to the Kansas Society was as State Recording Secretary and as secretary for the Santa Fe Trail Committee. She was Mrs. Stanley's confidant in conflicting matters regarding the Santa Fe Trail project. As secretary she wrote and copied all correspondence to the committee members and any other interested persons. Emma Stanley, regarding her crumbling cement sundial pedestal and a sample of stone from Zu Adams, remarked in an Aug 15 1906 letter to Grace Meeker, "I am not pleased with it." Mrs. Stanley wanted a stone that would withstand the test of time. In a September 18 1906 letter, Emma Stanley writes to Grace Meeker, "... I was very much pleased that the decision was in favor of the granite. Of course we do not have so many of them but we will have the satisfaction of knowing they will last for all time."

She was a devoted member of General Edward Hand Chapter throughout her life. Grace Meeker died at the family home on December 4, 1947, and was buried in Highland Cemetery in Ottawa.

