

John Clagett Proctors Feted On 50th Wedding Anniversary



John Clagett Proctor looks on as Mrs. Proctor cuts the cake at their golden wedding anniversary. —Star Staff Photo.

SURROUNDED by their close friends of many years, Mr. and Mrs. John Clagett Proctor last night celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary in a beautiful setting at their home, 1605 Jonquil street.

Happy remembrances of a half-century of married life was theirs in their home bedecked with flowers and gold presents, as their many friends went to congratulate them. Men and women, who refused to let even the rainy night keep them away, were on hand to wish them well.

A huge fiftieth wedding anniversary cake was cut by Mrs. Proctor and an elaborate program of music helped enliven the evening. Organ music was played by Mrs. Florence Jacobs and a medley of songs were sung by Mr. and Mrs. Francesco Della-Lana. Other vocal selections were sung by Mrs. Norma Henneberry, accompanied by Miss Eleanor Hulbert. Piano selections were played by Edward Henneberry.

On October 5, 1887, Mr. and Mrs. Proctor were married by Rev. Samuel Hansel Giesy, then rector of the Episcopal Church of the Epiphany, in the home here of the bride's parents, the late Charles Edward Crown and the late Mrs. Francis Marion Haislett Crown.

Native Washingtonian.

Mr. Proctor through the years has made a name for himself as an historian and writer of many articles pertaining to the history of the District of Columbia. A native of this city, he was the son of the late John Clagett Proctor, sr., who was a reporter on The Star. He will be 70 November 15. Mrs. Proctor and he were born the same year.

Long active in many organizations here, Mr. Proctor is vice president, chronicler and poet laureate of the Association of Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia. He was one of the founders of the Society of Natives of the District of Columbia, serving the latter organization as president, 1924-25. He also was named chairman by the District Commissioners of the Permanent Committee on Marking Points of Historic Interest in the District, the funds for which are appropriated by Congress.

In addition he holds the office of chronicler of the Columbia Historical Society and chairman of the Committee on Memorials and Archives of the Masonic Veterans' Association. On the occasion of the inauguration of President Coolidge in March, 1925, he was named chairman of the Committee on Historic Sites of the Inaugural Committee.

Graduated in Law.

Mr. Proctor received his early education in the public and private schools of this city, later graduating in law at the National University Law School, from which he received his bachelor of laws degree in 1893 and his master of laws degree in 1894. He was admitted to the District bar the latter year.

For many years Mr. Proctor was in charge of printing at the United States National Museum, where he was employed from 1884 until retiring in 1931. He attributes his early love of history and genealogy to his association with the museum. For more than 30 years

he has served on the Historic Sites Committee of the National Capital and has rendered conspicuous service to Washington in preparing information on historic sites here. He has prepared the booklets on the sites for many occasions of historical significance to the National Capital.

His expert knowledge of historic values has also been used and sought in condemnation proceedings where historic sites were being taken over by the Federal Government for public purposes.

An ardent believer in national representation for the District of Columbia, Mr. Proctor long has been a member of the Citizens' Joint Committee on National Representation. He also for many years has been a member of Columbia Typographical Union, Lafayette Lodge of Masons and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, being a past noble grand of Covenant Lodge, No. 13, of the latter organization. Likewise, he is a member of the Order of the Eastern Star, of which he was grand patron in 1929 and a member of the Trestleboard Club.

An Episcopalian, Mr. Proctor is a member of St. Paul's Church, Rock Creek Parish.

Writes of Old Washington.

Since January, 1928, Mr. Proctor has written Sunday features on historical subjects of the District for The Star, his articles dealing with old Washington. He has read many papers dealing with early Washington history both before the Columbia Historical Society and other organizations.

Long interested in civic welfare, Mr. Proctor for many years has been vice president of the Brightwood Citizens' Association and is a delegate from the Association of Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia to the Federation of Citizens' Associations.

Of Colonial ancestry, Mr. Proctor's great-great grandfather on his mother's side was Samuel Davison, who was commodore of the Pennsylvania State Navy at the time of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. His great-great grandfather on his mother's maternal side was Johannes Heintz, one of the patriots who marched from Frederick, Md., to assist Massachusetts after the battle of Bunker Hill.

Like her husband, Mrs. Proctor, formerly Annie Maud Crown, also is of Colonial ancestry. She has been a valuable helpmate to Mr. Proctor and he attributes the success of his many undertakings to her.

Active in Eastern Star.

Mrs. Proctor has been active in the Order of the Eastern Star, being a past matron of the William F. Hunt Chapter of that organization.

The couple's friends, many representing the organizations with which they have been affiliated, flocked to their home last night to wish them well and many more happy wedding anniversaries. There were many gifts of flowers and gold.

Rev. Richard A. Cartmell, assistant rector of the Church of the Epiphany, went to represent the church.

Mr. and Mrs. Proctor have two children, a son and daughter. They are Francis E. Proctor and Miss Maud S. Proctor, both of this city, the daughter living with her parents. There also are two grandchildren.