

Mary Harding Home (1910-1988)

By Jerry Long
c.2026



**Daviess County, Kentucky, 1815-2015, Celebrating Our Heritage,
Daviess County Bicentennial Committee (Evansville, IN: M. T. Publishing
Company, Inc., 2015) , From Chapter 17: “An Unfinished History –
Daviess County’s Black Citizens”, by Wesley Acton & Aloma Dew, p.169:**

The Mary Harding Home

The Mary Harding Home, founded in January 1910, started out as a residence for wayward children and those who were orphaned, living on the streets of Owensboro. It was started by the civic-minded Mary Harding for whom the home was later named. After serving many children in the community, Mary Harding saw the need for a facility for the elderly in Owensboro. At the time, there was nowhere for elderly African Americans without family or money to go. The mission of the Mary Harding Home changed course to fill a larger need in the community. She and her forward-thinking friends, Molly Edwards, and her daughter Emma Edwards, Molly Cable, Kelly Barker, Betty Price, Nettie Clark, Mary Jane MacMickens, Elsie Robinson, Nannie Locke, Ella Valentine, Georgia Merriweather, Mary Bell Foster, Hattie Cornelius, S.R. Guthrie, and Amilia Wheatley became the charter members of the Mary Harding Home which later evolved into a board of directors. Those women through their hard work and kind hearts had such a positive effect on the community as they strove to meet the needs of elderly housing in the city.

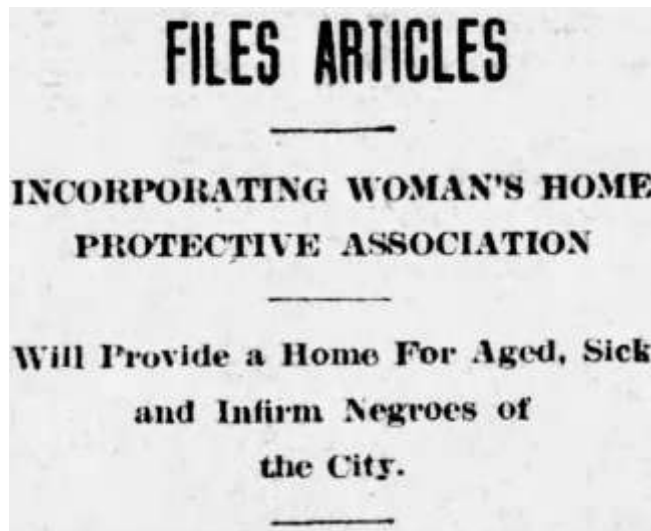
What started out as a two room house, grew and changed over the years. As needs arose and finances permitted, the home grew into a two-story building occupying two lots on 7th Street. The Mary Harding Home first housed only women, but added space for men when the need arose. Many of the materials such as lumber and brick came from older homes that were torn down in the Owensboro area. The home was also financed by contributions from local churches and fund-raisers by the Board. Later, Emma Edwards was able to get financial help from the local and state governments, as well as through United Way which was still the United Fund at the time. A local resident, Samuel Rone, left his house on Poplar Street to the Mary Harding Home. That home was rented to tenants and the proceeds were used to help finance the needs of the Mary Harding Home and its residents. No resident was ever charged and no one was ever turned away.

One of the volunteers, Mattie Scott, later became the first paid matron of the home, doing all the cooking and cleaning for the meager sum of \$25 a month. Later, she was given a room at the home as part of her salary. All of the other work was done by volunteers.

With the financial support of many white churches and with most of the volunteers and board members being from the black community, the Mary Harding Home served as one of the early institutions that helped to integrate Owensboro. The Home brought both races together to work for the common good of those in need. Because of declining residents, the Mary Harding Home closed its doors in June 1988.



Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Saturday, 3 December 1910, p.4:



Articles of incorporation have been filed by Ellen Valentine, Mary F. Harding and Anna B. Ward, three negro women of Owensboro incorporating what is to be known as the Woman's Protective Home association. The object and purpose of the association is to provide a home for the aged, sick and infirm negroes of the city.

The corporation has no capital stock, and it is provided that none of the members or incorporators are to receive any pecuniary benefit from it. The greatest indebtedness that the organization may at any time incur is \$5,000, and the property of the members is exempt from liability for the corporate debts.

The headquarters for the corporation is at the corner of Vine and Seventh streets and the affairs of the corporation are to be managed by a board of fifteen directors. From the board of directors, a president, vice president, secretary and treasurer are to be elected. Mary F. Harding is named as president of the organization until the regular election is held.

The directorate of the concern is also named and shows that three doctors, three preachers and one lawyer, all colored, are interested in the organization.



Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Saturday, 15 February 1913, p.2:

Real Estate Transfers

Mary F. Harding and Ellen Valentine, trustee of Woman's Improvement club to Woman's Protective Orphan Home association, lot in Morton's addition for \$1.



Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Thursday, 12 February 1914, p.3:

Will Do Hospital Work

Articles of Incorporation as amended have been filed in the county clerk's office by Mary F. Harding, Sallie B Williams and Elsie M. Robinson, changing the name of the Woman's Protective Orphans' Home association to the Woman's Protective Orphans home and hospital. It is given the trustees the power to conduct in connection with its home for the aged and infirm and homeless colored children a hospital.



Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Thursday, 21 June 1923 p.10:



A great improvement has been made recently in the work done at the Mary Harding home for colored orphans Seventh and Vine streets, through the cooperation of the Welfare League. It has been a struggle for the negroes of the city to maintain the home and for sometime it has been chiefly used, however, for indigent people of this race, and in spite of the lack of funds a good work has been done by the home.

The large number of chronically ill colored persons, in poor surroundings and given neither adequate food, nor attention has been a problem for the Welfare League for some months, and the city visitor of the league now in the Mary Harding home a solution of the difficulty, which would at the same time increase its usefulness. After talking the situation over with the mayor, who was much interested it was agreed that the Western League should provide what food the house could not furnish for its inmates and should pay a woman a small sum for caring for any inmate who needed special nursing care. Several colored people have given their services to keep the place

clean and prepare food for the old people. Working in cooperation with them the city visitor has gone to the home frequently, and persistently used her efforts for the comfort of those whom she sent there.

Last week an old man who had been bedfast at the home for weeks died after having been given the kindest care and attention where he would have otherwise been sorely neglected. At present there are three other inmates at the institution, one a woman suffering from an incurable disease. In order to make these people comfortable bed clothes are needed. A more urgent need than this is, at present, screens, and these must be provided in order that the place may be sanitary. A man has offered to make these if the material can be secured. If anyone has old screens which they would give for this purpose, will notify the league it will be glad to get them and see that they are so used.

[ed. note – This is the first article found in the Owensboro KY newspapers where the title “Mary Harding Home” appeared.]



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 21 October 1934, p.4B:

Mary Harding Home

The Mary Harding home is a home for aged colored people. It was founded by a good Christian woman who had the interest of her people at heart. She worked hard and secured the property. After several years her health failed and she was forced to give up the work. This person was Mary Harding, a highly respected colored woman. The Women's Improvement club continued the work, and in 1929 received an adequate donation with which to repair the building and put it in its present condition. The home has sheltered many wanderers through the Community Chest and have made comfortable and happy persons of the. In the beginning of the year there were 8 inmates, but one woman died in July, leaving 7 now. The inmates are served two meals a day in a nice, large, airy dining room, which is kept clean by a worthy housekeeper. She makes soup about twice a week and sends it to some needy persons in the neighborhood.



Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Monday, 25 October 1948, p.4:

Mary Harding Home, Founded In 1910, Serves Aged, Infirm

(Editor's Note – This is another of a series of articles relating to Character Chest agencies. The Character Chest is now seeking to \$75,000 with which to finance. the agencies during 1949).

The Mary Harding Home, an institution that cares for the infirm and aged Negroes of Owensboro and surrounding territory, is now 38 years old.

The home maintains a clean and comfortable environment for those whose lives might otherwise become a problem and its program is sponsored by the Improvement club composed of 10 women and two men. Members of the club pay monthly dues and serve on various committees.

Most cases at the home are sent to it from the Welfare League which helps determine the eligibility of the applicants, Emma E. Edwards, president, said.

During 1947. and 1948 the Mary Harding Home has served ten indigent and aged Negroes from Owensboro and its surrounding communities. The inmates are cared for by Mattie Scott, the matron, with the assistance of outside help, when available. The inmates who are able to wash dishes, patch, dust or do any work are allowed to help, thereby relieving them of their feeling of helplessness and dependence. The churches throughout Owensboro district bring programs at various times, and the inmates join freely in these religious practices. The ages of the inmates range from 79 to 90 years.

The Mary Harding Home was founded in 1910 out of a vision of Mary Harding, now dead, who felt the need for a better understanding of the social problems existing among the Negroes of Owensboro, and a humane adjustment of it."

At first an orphanage was proposed. For a while this institution was called the Woman's Protective Orphans' Home and Hospital Association, and was opened primarily for orphan and neglected children.

A lot was bought at the southeast corner of Seventh and Vine streets with money raised by free offerings, ice cream suppers, fish and pie suppers and other events.

A small frame house was on the lot and this was used as a temporary shelter until funds could be raised for building purposes. The first president was the founder, Mary Harding. Charter members of the organization were Georgia Merriweather, Nannie Locke, Ellen Valentine, Mary Jane McMickens, Mollie Edwards, May Belle Foston, Bettie Price, Sara Weaver, Hattie Cornelius, Mollie Claybrooks, S. R. Guthrie and Amelia Wheatley.

The first matron was Amelia Bell who came in with her grandchildren. A league was then organized to support the home. Mary Hayden was the organizer the league which not only supported the home but helped other unfortunates throughout the city. Men were asked to cooperate and the league grew. Opie Wright, Christopher Bean, John Mary Henderson, Millie Moran, Lula McCarty, Mamie J. Hill, Mary Buckner, Annie and Will Higgs, Edith Claybrooks, Joe Price, Stirman Wheatley, Virgil Bell, Elsie Robinson, Lena Arnold, Rhea Thomeson and Elizabeth Morris were members of the league.

In 1923 Rhea Thomeson became business manager and served in all capacities until 1939. Abe Hearst, a philanthropist and an uncle of Silas Rosenfeld, gave the home \$2,500. The next year Mr. Rosenfeld increased this sum by several hundred dollars. The home was enlarged to its present capacity, and the Christian Service club built the front porches.

The home has cared for approximately 400 unfortunates during its 38 years, not including emergency cases.



Emma E. Edwards

At present the home is under the leadership of Emma E. Edwards, president, Susie R. Williams, vice-president and treasurer of the building fund, Mary Williams, second vice-president, Rida V. Jones, recording secretary, Leola Donahoo, treasurer, Ozetta Sleet, corresponding secretary and Mamie J. Hill.. chairman of problems confronting the organization. Other members are Mary Priest, Elsie Robinson, Bevie Johnson, Lina Talbott, Eddie Morrow, Charlie Gaines, Bettie Price and Lettie Clark.



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 4 December 1960, p.1B:

City's Mary Harding Home Celebrates Fifty Years Of Community Service Today

By Lizabeth Ann Wilson, Messenger and Inquirer Staff Writer

Today the Mary Harding Home will celebrate fifty years of service to the community.

In 1910 the home opened its doors to the public. It is now located on the southwest corner of 7th and Vine Streets. The lot was purchased with money raised by free-will offerings, ice cream suppers, fish and pie suppers. Later when funds were available the house was constructed.

Miss Harding was the leader and organizer of the home which bears her name. Charter members included: Nannie Locke, Mollie Edwards, Mary Jane McMickens, Ellen Valentine, Georgia Merriweather, Mary Bell Foston, Sarah Weaver, Hattie Cornelius, S. R. Guthrie and Amelia Wheatley.

The last of the charter members, Mrs. Georgia Merriweather, died at the Home in January 1958.

In the early years of the Home a league was organized by Mary Hayden to support the institution. Working with her on the league were Opie Wright, Christopher Bean, John Ayers, Mary Henderson, Millie Moran, Bettie Price, Lula McCarty, Mamie J. Hill, Mary Buckner, Annie and Will Higgs, Edith Claybrook, Virgil Bell, Elsie Robinson, Lena Arnold, Rhea Thomeson and Elizabeth Morris.

Mary (Mamie) Hill is now a guest in the Home and is enjoying the benefits of her earlier years of labor and devotion.

Of the twelve guests at the Home, two will particularly joy today's celebration. They are 103-year-old Belle Jackson and Lina Talbott. Miss Lina was closely associated with the work at the Mary Harding Home in previous years.

Not to be overlooked in all the hustle is Mrs. Mattie Scott, matron of the home for the past 15 years. Since Jan. 16, 1945 she said that she had only one 10- day vacation which was spent in Louisville. "When I got back", she said, "you'd have thought I'd been gone a year." When asked when she planned to take another day or two off for a rest and visit to friends, she said that it would have to wait until spring.

Eight years ago this sprightly widow had little or no help with the duties of the home and patient care. Now Mattie has four people who come about 8 a.m. and leave after the evening meal. They are: Jessie Houston, Edna Taylor, Jean Ella Williams and Herschel Porter.

Five of the 12 guests are able to come to the table for meals and the seven who are bedfast can feed themselves. What if there should be illness? Could Mattie do it alone, then? "Oh, no," she said, "but any of my assistants would gladly come and stay here until the load was lighter."

Guests at the home now are Mamie Hill, Herbert Mox, and his mother, Mrs. Cordelia Mox, Lee Harris, Homer Taylor, Booker Pope, Eli Smith, Romance Brookins, Belle Jackson, Lina Talbott and Mary John Fields.

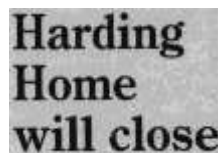
The Mary Harding Home is a modern institution, licensed by the State of Kentucky. The charter was granted in 1942. Since that time the entire interior has been rebuilt and a 4-bed men's ward with bath and a new kitchen have been completed.

The board of directors of the Mary Harding Home will hold an open house today from 3 to 6 p.m. at the home.

Serving on the board are: Eddie Morrow, president; Emma E. Edwards, business manager; Rosa Lee Green, secretary, Leola Donahue, Ozetta Sleet and Mary J. Hill.



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Thursday, 16 June 1988, p.1C:



By Dan Heckel and Ron Bridgeman, Messenger-Inquirer

After several months of financial uncertainty, the 78-year-old Mary Harding Home will close once the six remaining residents find a new place to live, the home's manager said.

The lack of money to pay the home's bills has gotten so severe the home will probably be closed by the end of the month, said Bobby McCormick, manager and president of the board of directors. "It's just something that's been coming for a long time," he said.

The home at 1314 W. Seventh St. can accommodate 12 residents, who require only light assistance in their everyday lives, McCormick said. The state allows the home to charge \$506 a month per person, but McCormick said just paying the nine parttime employees costs more than that income, between \$3,600 and \$4,000 a month. That's not including general maintenance, utilities, food and other expenses the home incurs.

"After awhile at that rate, you deplete any savings you have," McCormick said. The home has not been full on a consistent basis since about 1984, McCormick said.

The home has a yearly budget of about \$70,000, he said, "and that's a very conservative budget."

McCormick has been making calls to local rest homes to see what openings are available for the five women and one man at the home. The people range from their late 60s to early 90s, McCormick said.

Four of the people at the home have sponsors who take care of doctor bills and other outside matters. The home sponsors two people, but that duty will be transferred to someone else when the home closes, McCormick said.

The facility receives some contributions from the community, but many people have forgotten about the home, McCormick said.

The small number of people in the home has allowed the employees to get to know each person well, McCormick said. "For many of them we're the only family they have."
There are no plans yet on what will be done with the building.



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Wednesday, 29 June 1988, pp.1A & 8A:

**Mary Harding
Home closes
after 78 years**

By Catherine Behan, Messenger-Inquirer

Cynthia Murray wiped away tears as she talked about the "family" she had cared for during the past four years.

The Mary Harding Home said goodbye to the last member of its family Tuesday as the nursing home shut its doors after 78 years.

"It hurts me, it really does," said Ms. Murray, administrator at the Mary Harding Home. "It's just like a ghost town in here."

In an old, comfortable chair, she was finishing the patient charts for the last six members of the family at the nursing home who have moved. The home was forced to close because it had consistently too few residents.

The last member of the family, "Aunt Irma" McKnight, left Tuesday for her new home at Hillcrest.

"To us, it's a home and we loved them all just like they were ours," Ms. Murray said. "We knew this day was going to come, but we thought something would happen to keep us going."

For the past few years, something usually did happen, said Bobby McCormick, manager. The home was licensed to care for those who need minimal care and are not confined to their beds. It could care for 12 people and needed to have all 12 for financial stability.

There is high demand for nursing homes that provide intermediate care, but not as much for "personal care," which the Mary Harding Home provided.

Last year, eight people were living at the home. Later, that number dropped to six after two patients died.

McCormick said he was hoping publicity about the financial problems would bring more patients and more support from the community so the home could stay open.

"We really went down to the wire," he said. "We stayed a little bit too long. But you keep looking around the corner to see if there's something there."

Nearly two weeks ago, the board of directors decided there wasn't anything around the corner.

The staff is upset that the community didn't come through. It's Owensboro's loss, they said. And they choke on the thought that they had to force people from their home.

"It's hard not to cry when you put your babies out on the street," said Kathy Handley, assistant administrator.

The Mary Harding Home was different from other nursing homes, they said.

"When you walk through the doors, you can feel the love," Ms. Handley said.

They don't know why the community didn't do more to keep the nursing home open, they said. They particularly don't understand the black community's disinterest. The home is in a predominantly black section of Owensboro and has served mostly black residents.

"I don't think we have any brotherly love left," Ms. Handley said. "This was a home, not a nursing home, but a family home."

Neither Ms. Murray nor Ms. Handley are eager to get back into the nursing home business. They don't want to get that close to residents again because "I feel like I've got a big hole in my heart," Ms. Handley said.

They and nearly 10 others are unemployed because of the closing, Ms. Murray said.

When Mattie Scott left, it was the hardest. "Aunt Mattie" worked at the Mary Harding Home years ago as administrator.

As a resident, she got the special attention the staff at the home said was unique there. She couldn't walk fast, but with help she could walk a few steps to the restroom, bedroom or dining area.

All six of the residents were placed in other nursing homes. Four went to Rosedale Rest Home. Aunt Mattie went to a home in Hartford.

Ms. Murray said that when Aunt Mattie left, it was clearly the end.

"If that's what you have to do, that's what you have to do," Aunt Mattie said then. "Don't let people forget about me."



Mary Harding Home named for Founder Mrs. Mary Jane Harding (c1869-1932)

By Jerry Long

Mary Jane Robinson, a native of Russellville, Logan County, KY, was born circa (October) 1869. She married first James Polk Turner, of Russellville, KY about 1883. They had a daughter, Mossie Turner, who was born 7 December 1883 in Russellville, KY. Mossie married H. B. Orndorff, 12 May 1905 in Russellville, Logan County, KY. Mossie Orndorff died 8 November 1965 Nashville, TN. and was buried in Greenwood Cemetery at Russellville, KY. On Mossie's death certificate it was reported that her parents were Polk Turner & Mary Robinson.

Mrs. Mary Jane (Robinson) Turner married second Frank Harding, on 27 January 1887 at Hopkinsville, Christian County, KY. Frank and Mary Harding are listed in the 1900, 1910, 1920 & 1930 censuses of Owensboro, Daviess County, KY. Frank Harding was born circa 1860 in Russellville, Logan County, KY, where he appears in the 1870 & 1880 censuses. He operated a tin shop in Owensboro, KY He died 22 September 1936 in Russellville, Logan County, KY, where he was interred in the Greenwood Cemetery.

Mary Jane Robinson and Frank Harding had a daughter, Zilla Harding, who was born 4 November 1889 in Owensboro, Daviess County, KY. Zilla married Oliver Bruce Simmons (1881-1932), 6 February 1909 Owensboro, KY. Zilla Simmons died 7 February 1935 in Owensboro, KY, where she was interred in the Greenwood Cemetery. Frank Harding reported on the death certificate of his daughter, Zilla Simmons, that Zilla was the daughter of Frank Harding & Mary Jane Robinson.

Mrs. Mary Jane Harding died in Owensboro, KY on 22 November 1932. She was survived by her husband, Frank Harding, and two daughters, Mossie Orndorff & Zilla Simmons. Mary Harding lies in an unmarked grave in Greenwood Cemetery, Owensboro, KY. Miss Emma Edwards reported that she and others tried to locate the grave of Mary Harding, founder of the Mary Harding Home for aged and infirmed in Owensboro, but couldn't. They had wanted to place a monument in her memory (Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 4 October 1970, p1D).



Christian County, KY Marriage Records:

310 REGISTER OF MARRIAGES.			311 CHRISTIAN COUNTY COTY.		
DATE OF DEED.	NAMES OF PARTIES.	AUTHORITY.	MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE.		
1887 Jan 22	William Anderson To Mary Anderson	✓	This is to Certify, That on the 22 day of Jan ^y 1887, the Banns of Marriage were legally solemnized by me before <u>W. Allan Bready</u> as <u>Mary Anderson</u> in <u>Christ Church</u> in the County of <u>Christian</u> in presence of <u>Scott Breatitt & W. Henry</u> agents. <u>L. S. Fowler M. S.</u>		
1887 Jan 27	Frank Harding To Mrs Mary Jane Turner	✓	This is to Certify, That on the 27 day of January 1887, the Banns of Marriage were legally solemnized by me before <u>Frank Harding</u> and <u>Mrs Mary Turner</u> at <u>Hopkinsville</u> in the County of <u>Christian</u> in presence of <u>W. C. Brent Mrs Smith</u> agents. <u>C. Williams</u>		

Frank Harding married Mrs. Mary Jane Turner on 27 January 1887 at Hopkinsville, Christian County, KY



Owensboro, Daviess County, KY Federal Census Records:

- 1900 census of Owensboro, Daviess County, KY: Frank Harding, age 42, black, born Nov 1857, he & parents born KY, residence 1023 Harriett Street [note – Harriett Street became Seventh Street], married 13 years, tinner, owns home; Mary Harding, age 30, black, born October 1869, wife, married 13 years, she & parents born KY, mother of 3 children, 2 children are living; Moss Turner, age 17, black, born Dec 1882, daughter, single, she & parents born KY; Zilla Harding, age 12, black, born April 1888, daughter, single, she & parents born KY
- 1910 census of Owensboro, Daviess County, KY: Frank Harden, age 55, black, born he & parents born KY, residence 1025 West Seventh Street, married 23 years, tinner, owns home; Mary J. Harden, age 47, black, wife, married 23 years, she & parents born KY
- 1920 census of Owensboro, Daviess County, KY: Frank W. Harding, age 63, black, he & parents born KY, residence 1025 West Seventh Street, married, tinner at tinner shop, owns home; Mary Harding, age 50, black, wife, married, her second marriage, she & parents born KY,

- 1930 census of Owensboro, Daviess County, KY: Frank Harding, age 73, negro, he & parents born KY, residence 1025 West Seventh Street, married, first marriage at age of 33, tinner at tinner shop, owns home; Mary J. Harding, age 69, negro, wife married, first marriage at age of 25, she & parents born KY



Owensboro, Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Tuesday, 22 November 1932, p.12:

Founder of Mary Harding Home Dies Early Today

Mary Harding, widely known Owensboro colored woman, founder of the Mary Harding home for colored people, died at 5 o'clock this morning at the home of her daughter, Zilla Simmons. Funeral services will be held at St. Paul's A. M. E. church at 2 o'clock Thursday afternoon.



Kentucky Death Certificate – 1932 certificate #25472:

Form V. S. 1-A-720-2-20-32		COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY State Board of Health BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS CERTIFICATE OF DEATH		File No. <u>25472</u>
1. PLACE OF DEATH County <u>Daviess</u>		Registration District No. <u>410</u>		Registered No. <u>486</u>
City <u>Owensboro Ky.</u>		Primary Registration District No. <u>2145</u>		
2. FULL NAME <u>Mary J. Harding</u>		(If death occurred in a hospital or institution, give the NAME instead of street and number)		
(K) Residence No. <u>1025</u> St. <u>7th</u> Ward		(If nonresident, give city or town and State)		
Length of residence in city or town where death occurred yrs. mos. ds.		New born in U. S., if of foreign birth? yrs. mos. ds.		
PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS		MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH		
3. SEX <u>Female</u>	4. COLOR OR RACE <u>negro</u>	5. Single, Married, Widowed or Divorced (circle the word) <u>married</u>		
6a. If married, widowed or divorced last wife or husband <u>Frank Harding</u>		21. DATE OF DEATH <u>Nov 22 1932</u>		
7. AGE <u>about 62</u>		22. I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from <u>July 12, 1870</u> to <u>Nov 22, 1932</u>		
8. Trade, profession, or particular kind of work done, as operator, Sawyer, bookkeeper, etc. <u>Domestic</u>		I last saw deceased on <u>Nov 21, 1932</u> for death is said to have occurred on the date stated above, at <u>5:00 p.m.</u>		
9. Industry or business in which work was done, as silk mill, sawmill, bank, etc.		The principal cause of death and related cause of importance in order of onset were as follows: <u>Sorenia</u> <u>Chole. congestia</u> <u>from</u> <u>Chronic pyelitis</u> <u>& senility</u>		
10. Date deceased last worked at this occupation (month and year)		Contradictory causes of importance not related to principal cause: <u>no</u>		
11. Time time (month and year) deceased		Name of operation <u>no</u> Date of <u>no</u>		
12. BIRTHPLACE <u>Ky</u>		What test confirmed diagnosis? <u>Was there an autopsy?</u>		
13. NAME <u>Under over</u>		23. If death was due to external cause (violence) fill in also the following: Accident, suicide, or homicide? <u>no</u> Date of injury <u>no</u>		
14. BIRTHPLACE		Where did injury occur? <u>no</u> (Specify city or town, county, and State)		
15. MOTHER'S NAME <u>Evelyn Cook</u>		Specify whether injury occurred in industry, in home, or in public place. <u>no</u>		
16. BIRTHPLACE <u>Ky</u>		Manner of injury <u>no</u>		
17. INFORMANT <u>Zilla Simmons</u>		Nature of injury <u>no</u>		
(Address) <u>602 Poplar St</u>		24. Was disease or injury in any way related to occupation of deceased? <u>no</u> If so, specify <u>no</u>		
18. SOCIAL ORGANIZATION OR REMOVAL <u>W.P.A. No 2432</u>		Signed <u>[Signature]</u> M. D. (Address) <u>[Address]</u>		
19. UNDERTAKER <u>[Signature]</u>				
(Address) <u>[Address]</u>				
20. FILED <u>11-24-32</u> <u>Lina Cook</u>				

Mary J. Harding died – 22 November 1932 Owensboro; residence – 1025 West Seventh Street; race – negro; age – about 62; born – Kentucky; father – unknown; mother – Evelyne Cash (born KY); married; husband – Frank Harding; cause of death – toxemia; buried – Greenwood Cemetery on 24 November 1932; undertaker – J. A. Agnew; informant – Zilla Simmons of 602 Poplar Street, Owensboro, KY.



Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Thursday, 7 February 1935, p.12:

**Daughter of Founder of
Mary Harding Home Dies**

Zilla Simmons, 45 years old, well known negro woman and daughter of the late Mary Harding, founder of the home for aged and infirm negroes of Owensboro which bears her name, died this morning at the city hospital. survived by her father, Frank Harding, Owensboro, and a sister, Mossie Orndorff, Russellville.

The funeral will be conducted at 2:30 o'clock Saturday afternoon from the Simmons residence, 600 Plum street. Services will be in charge of Rev. Thomas, pastor of the St, Paul's A. M. E. church. Burial will be in Greenwood cemetery.



Kentucky Death Certificate – 1935 certificate #3519:

Mrs. Zilla Simmons died – 7 February 1935 at City Hospital, Owensboro, KY; race – colored; widow; profession – beautician; residence – 600 Poplar Street, Owensboro, KY; cause of death – abdominal operation; age – 45 years, 3 months 3 days; born – 4 November 1889 in Owensboro, KY; father – Frank Harding (born Logan County, KY); mother – Mary Jane Robinson (born Logan County, KY; informant – Frank Harding (residence 600 Poplar Street, Owensboro, KY; undertaker – Agnew & Wheatley; buried – 9 February 1935 at Greenwood Cemetery, Owensboro, KY).



Kentucky Death Certificate – 1936 certificate #25257:

Frank Harding died – 22 September 1936 at Russellville, Logan County, KY; race – colored; widowed; profession – hardware; residence – Russellville, KY; cause of death – apoplexy; age – 80; born – 1856 KY; father – Henry Harding (born KY); mother – blank; buried – 23 September 1936 at Russellville, KY; informant – Mossie Orndorff (residence – Russellville, KY).



Tennessee Death Certificate – 1965 certificate #30150

Mossie Orndorff died – 8 November 1965 in Nashville, Davidson County, TN; race – negro; cause of death – pneumonia; residence – Russellville, Logan County, KY; born – 7 December 1883 Tennessee; father – Polk Turner; mother – Mary Robinson; buried Russellville, KY



The News Democrat, Russellville, KY, Thursday, 18 November 1965, p.6:

Mrs. M. Orndorff Dies In Nashville

Mrs. Mossie Orndorff, 81, died in a Nashville hospital Monday, Nov. 8, at 7:50 a. m. Funeral services were conducted by the Rev. R. E. S. Utterback Thursday, Nov. 11, at 2 p.m., at the Negro First Baptist Church with burial in Greenwood Cemetery.

Mrs. Orndorff was born in Russellville Dec. 7, 1883, the daughter of Polk and Mary Jane Turner. She was former teacher in the county and city school systems.

Survivors include one daughter, Mrs. Mildred O. Yokley, Russellville; one son, Frank B. Orndorff, Nashville; one grandchild and a number of nieces and nephews.

Pallbearers were Luther Bell, Ernest Bibbs, Mose Gaines, Jerry Jones, George W. Nourse and George R. Smith.



Polk's Owensboro, Kentucky City Directory
(Indianapolis, IN: R. L. Polk & Co., 1930) p.274:

SEVENTH W—Contd	1106 Payne Lula
321 Wittel Geo J	1107 Robertson Lola
323 Brown Jas H	1108 Franklin Michl
326 Ware LeRoy ®	1116 Rudy John M coal
Wilson Jennie Coal Co	1119 Bowlds Moore
Universal Coal Co	1120 Howard Jesse
StElizabeth intersects	1122 Bell Mollie Mrs
404 Hicks Mary E Mrs ®	1124 Vacant
Estes Morton	1126 Bell Susie Mrs
405 Wood Oil Co Inc	Plum intersects
Curry Chas E	1201 Lewis Fannie Mrs
407 Medley Benj F	1207 Priest Emma J Mrs
408 Smith Alford M	1208 Moredock Mamie Mrs.
409 Cundiff Robt L ®	1209 Howard Emma
Cundiff Laura Mrs nurse	1210 Adams Pearl
411 Huston Wm C	1211 Bennett Robt
412 Geen Jos W ®	1213 McHenry Geo
415 Trout Geo P	1214 Vacant
416 Moberly Sue H Mrs ®	1215 Cunningham Reecie Mrs
420 Robinson G Welch ®	1216 Moss Tillie Mrs
426 Schwarzenberg Clara Mrs	1218 Haley Neb
Locust intersects	1219 Graves Hallis
504 Calhoun Ralph C ®	1220 Noyes Clarence
508 Wathen Frank	1221 Haley Blanche Mrs
511 Stiff John E	1222 Goodin Henry
512 Gilmour John ®	Vine intersects
Stotts Glenn	1314 Harding Mary Home
515 Fulkerson Geo W	Smith Mattie B Mrs
516 Baird Arth L	1316 Sims Lillian Mrs
521 Hardin Lindsay C	1320-22 Vacant
522 Blocher Arch	1620 King Harvey
523 Alford Clay	Staples Rosella Mrs
525 Clark Walter S	1615 Bickett A Nathaniel
Cedar intersects	1821 Pinkston Richd
608 Gillim Furn Co	1825 Johnson Chas V
609 Jackson Carmel M	1829 Mattingly Barney M
620 Wheatley Claude W	1831 Whittaker Robt
621 Vacant	1833 Vacant
622 Ellis Melvin T	1903 Dossett Mary E Mrs
Walnut intersects	2103 Fuqua Bettie S Mrs
	Crabtree av intersects

Mary Harding Home – 1314 West 7th Street