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UA68/6/2 Immortal Names in Western Hall of Fame

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Congress Debating Club

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If you will follow me with your imagination for a few minutes
I shall turn the pages of time back a few brief years and there point for
you a word picture of three noble souls that have passed into the great
beyond.

In the brief time allotted to it will be impossible to give you
a complete life history of any one of them. It will, therefore, be necessary
for me to merely mention only a few of their activities while connected with
this institution that entitled them to a prominent place in Western Hall of
Fame.

As we enter this Hall of Fame for the first time our attention
is immediately attracted by the face of a distinguished looking gray-haired
gentleman who looks down upon us with a friendly smile. The face that so
draws our attention is that of Mr. J. Wait Potter, a noble, loyal citizen, who
for 18 years rendered faithful service to this school as a member of its Board
of Regents. No man was ever more thoroughly endowed with the spirit of service,
or a genuine desire to help the boys and girls of Kentucky than he. Just
two weeks before his death he sent a check for $200 to the College Heights
Foundation with the statement that this amount was only the beginning of a
larger contribution.

Then he answered the final call of the grim reaper Western lost
one of her greatest friends. The splendid building to my left, J. Wait Potter
Hall, stands a constant reminder and suitable monument of the man whose name
it bears. A few steps farther down the corridor we pause before the picture
of a young lady who looks down upon us through the eyes of a dreamer. She it
was who visualized the future progress of the home economics department of this
school and gave the best years of her life in an endeavor to realize that
dream. The corner stone of our beautiful Home Economics Building, that was
laid in the fall of 1926, was laid in the mind of Miss Ivy Scott 15 years be-
fore. There never lived a purer, sweeter-spirited woman than she. She forgot
self so that she might aid others and although she did not live to see the fruits
of her work there is no one who contributed more for the betterment of young
womanhood than she. The Ivy Scott Club of this institution acts as a living
monument to her and keeps forever fresh the memory of her noble deeds. You,
who are members of this club may justly be proud of being affiliated with an
organization that bears the name and keeps alive the ideals of so distinguished
a daughter of Western.

Still farther down the line we halt our footsteps before the portrait
of a young woman whose head is bowed in reverent thought. This was characteristic
pose of Miss Bettye Reid as she pondered o'er the problem of life.

She was a teacher she looked upon her profession with the greatest
reverence; and entered it with an earnest desire in her heart to help other
girls to realize their possibilities. She approached her class-room as though
it were holy ground for her, a place where she could expand and realize
its dream. She only left the teaching field to undertake a more difficult
and sacred task—that of building a home. She was marvelous in life and
glorious in death and if it had been possible for each of the students she had
helped and inspired during her teaching days to have placed a rose upon her
grave she could have rested beneath a wilderness of roses. Although there
is no physical place at which we may offer tribute to Miss Bettye Reid, we will
find her memory forever enshrined in the hearts of the men and women with whom
she came in contact during her long years of faithful service.

Western Kentucky State Teachers College will long feel the influence
of the lives of these noble people; their generous contributions to the cause
of education will live through generations to come in the lives of young men
and women who will reap the fruits of their labor.
The Hall of Fame in which their portraits hang is not a physical building of brick and stone and mortar, constructed by the hand of man. It is, instead, the handicraft of God, a place eternal. It is the hearts of the students they taught. May their memory live forever in this, Western's Immortal Hall of Fame.