

C. Tomlinson Wills Fortune To Community

Generous Gift Of Entire Fortune Showed His Love For Community

265 Acres of Farm Land Given To Community Forever (Jan. 16, 1941)

The finest bit of news that has ever come into this community was revealed this week with the filing of the will of Clarence Tomlinson, who left his estate valued at \$48,000 to Mount Pulaski and community to be used for community welfare.

In creating a perpetual trust fund, the income of which is to be spent within the confines of Mount Pulaski township, three trustees were appointed: George Rupp, now president of the First National Bank, Thomas A. Scroggin, president of The Farmers Bank, and Robert Aitchison, Sr., deceased, who was president of the First National at the time the will was drawn up.

Under provisions of the will in the event a vacancy occurs among the trustees, a successor is to be appointed by the circuit court.

Particularly heartening to the community which has been without an adequate building available for community activities, was the specific designation of a public center building as well as several other very much worthwhile community activities that coordinate with each other, namely:

Funds are to be used to promote the general social and cultural growth of the community; public libraries; public parks; public playgrounds; child welfare work; public center building and development of choral music in the community.

The will disposes of property consisting of personal property valued at \$8,000, and real estate valued at \$40,000, which includes about 265 acres of farm land.

George Rupp was named as executor.

Elmer Tomlinson, a brother, is left the home place of 40 acres east of Mount Pulaski, and personal effects in the home for his lifetime after which they revert to the perpetual fund estate.

While Mr. Tomlinson was well-known throughout the community for generosity to various organizations, the full extent of his interest in the welfare of his community was not realized until the contents of the will were disclosed.

Aided Organizations

During his lifetime he made generous donations to the St. John's, Christian and Methodist churches, which enabled them to install pipe organs. The Mount Pulaski library and Lincoln College library have both been recipients of his unselfishness as well as many needy families who have been aided by this silent philanthropic man.

Mount Pulaski and community owe a deep responsibility to Mr. Clarence Tomlinson, and may we meet it to the fullest.

The will was filed for probate by Attorney George J. Smith, in Lincoln, Tuesday.

TOMLINSON FUNDS BUILT SCOUT HOUSE

One of the contributions of the Tomlinson Estate to the youth of the community was furnishing \$2,000.00 to buy materials with which to construct a Boy Scout home.

This building was situated on the northwest corner of the Tomlinson Recreation Center and was erected by volunteer labor from the community. It was a one-room building of good size.

The Scouts made considerable use of it for some years, then Scouting began to falter, and not too much use was made, and the building was sold to the Mount Pulaski Township high school when room was needed for the new indoor swimming pool at the Recreation Center.

Clarence A. Tomlinson Died Friday

Services Held At Schahl Funeral Home Sunday (January 9, 1941)

Clarence Albert Tomlinson, a lifelong resident of Mount Pulaski township, and well-known throughout Logan county, who had been in failing health for many months, died at 12:35 p.m., Friday, Jan. 3, 1941, in the Deaconess Hospital, Lincoln, where he had been taken in the Schahl ambulance on Tuesday, the last day of the year 1940. He was aged 71 years, 10 months and 15 days.

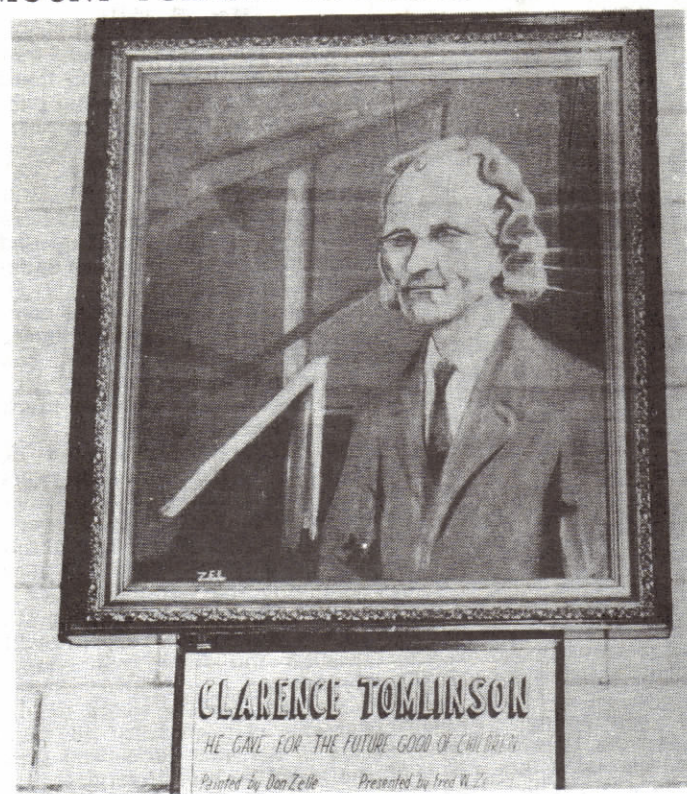
Mr. Tomlinson was born on a farm two miles east of Mount Pulaski, Feb. 18, 1869, and spent his entire life on the old home place. His parents were John Milton and Mary E. Riddle Tomlinson, who were married in 1859 and located east of Mount Pulaski before the Civil War. His parents, two sisters, Helen and Mabel Irene, and one brother, Frank L. Tomlinson, preceded him in death.

Decedent is survived by one brother, Elmer, with whom he maintained bachelor quarters at home for many years. He leaves several cousins and other relatives.

Mr. Tomlinson was very successful in his chosen occupation, and became well to do. He was well and favorably known for his charitable work in this community, and in his quiet and unassuming way gave away large sums of money where he thought it would do the most good. Among those receiving substantial amounts through his sincere kindness were the Methodist, Christian and St. John's Churches in Mount Pulaski, at the time when the congregations were installing pipe organs; the Mount Pulaski Library was also liberally remembered; and it was announced that the Lincoln College library received a large sum from Mr. Tomlinson, only recently.

His kindness to needy families and children was also another evidence of his thoughtfulness. For several years he outfitted small boys and girls of grade school age with warm clothing in the winter months, and thereby encouraged them in securing an education. And he will always be remembered for this greatly

MOUNT PULASKI TOWNSHIP BENEFACTOR



Block Purchased in 1945 For Park, Playground and Buildings

Tomlinson Recreation Center Proves Popular Spot

One of the most far-reaching and important acts of the Tomlinson Estate Trustees, was the purchasing of the block of ground owned by Mrs. Carrie Baker, north of the grade school, for a playground, in 1945.

The wisdom of that first major transaction of the trustees in starting to build toward the fulfillment of the wishes of the late Clarence A. Tomlinson, becomes more and more apparent each year.

When the block, which included a house, was bought for a price of \$7000 in 1945, there were a few eyebrows raised as to the appreciated help, by a large number of people. In fact, he was only one among a few who found great joy in helping others, a most commendable trait.

The remains were removed to the Schahl funeral home in this city, where funeral services were held at 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 5, conducted by Rev. F. E. Neumeier, pastor of the Methodist Church. Mrs. G. F. Wait played two selections, "Oh Holy Ground" and "Love Divine," transcription of the hymn. The services were largely attended. Interment was made in Mount Pulaski cemetery. The pallbearers were: Chris Beck, Clifford Lindsay, Frank Beers, Herbert Schaffnacker, William Leimbach and Clifford Aughenbaugh.

price being too high. Subsequent events have proven that it was an exceptionally good buy.

The area was covered with trees, shrubbery, old wells, windmill, barn, outbuildings, wire fences and a heavy growth that made it impossible to see from one side of the block to the other. When possession was gained a few months later, Vic DeBoice headed a crew of workers who cleaned the premises up, after weeks of hard labor.

Wells were filled up, trees and shrubbery uprooted and burned. John Tendick was a big help with the bigger trees, bringing his steam engine in. Bill Koehler was called in to blast some of the old cottonwood trees and stumps on the east side of the block, using dynamite that threw dirt on top of adjoining homes and causing some mental anguish, but no damage.

The wonderful shade trees, many of them of unusual species and size, still afford fine shade for the many family reunions, and the summer playground held there.

The house on the block was put in a good state of repair and made into a small community building. Two rooms were furnished for the Girl Scouts, making it an ideal home for them. The remainder of the building was converted into an assembly room and equipped kitchen, available for meetings and gatherings of all kinds.

Fire destroyed the house a few years later.

REFLECTIONS

By The Editor

(Jan. 11, 1941)

Today, and in the days to come Mount Pulaski and community should pay tribute to a fellow citizen, deceased.

A man who not only gave evidence of his goodwill toward his fellowmen during his lifetime

With generous gifts and contributions to churches, organizations and underprivileged youngsters,

But as further evidence of the sincerity of his desire to better the surroundings of his fellowmen.

Left his entire fortune for the very things that have been so greatly needed in this community.

To realize now that this silent man who performed his philanthropic deeds so quietly and with so little show,

Had sensed the need of the community so accurately and provided for it so thoroughly,

Cannot but bring a deep sense of humility and a feeling of regret that one had not cultivated such a personality to its fullest.

As we meditate over this splendid contribution, we cannot but feel that no finer tribute could be paid this community and its citizenry

Than the suggestions of this man as they were contained in the will:

"That the funds be used to promote the general social and cultural growth of the community;

"Public libraries; public parks; public playgrounds; child welfare;

Public center building and development of choral music in the community."

It is ample evidence that the man loved his community and was proud of it.

To the trustees go the deep responsibility of seeing that not only the letter of the will of this philanthropist is carried out,

But, above all, it seems to us, to strive that the spirit of the motive back of this generous man's wishes be accomplished to the greatest possible degree.

While it is to be regretted that this magnanimous donor will not be here to witness the unfolding of his contribution to the community,

We can think of no more fitting tribute to the memory of Mr. Clarence Tomlinson,

Whose love for little children abounded with extreme generosity.

Than a community-wide Children's Party each year in his honor,

Which would not only bring happiness to hundreds of youngsters

But as they grow up to young manhood and womanhood.

Would cultivate in them a deeper sense of appreciation of the various opportunities afforded them in the community, that were made possible thru the unselfish generosity of

Mr. Clarence Tomlinson.

We can think of no finer tribute to any man than this:

"He did not live in vain."

The world is a looking glass, and gives back to every man the reflection of his own face. Frown at it, and it in turn will look sourly upon you; laugh at it and with it and it is a jolly, kind companion. —Thackeray.

OLD HOMESTEAD OF CLARENCE TOMLINSON EAST OF CITY

