

Clara M(A???) Mcadam

Clara McAdam (nee Jones) was born on August 29, 1850, in Utica, New York.¹ In 1879 Clara married Quentin McAdam, who would later become the head of the Utica Knitting Company and “one of the largest producers of knit goods in the world.”² Though Quentin and Clara were married for nearly 40 years at the time of Quentin’s death in December 1918, Clara never gave birth to any children.³ It was likely because she lacked this traditional familial structure for elder care that she was admitted to Friends Hospital less than a year after her husband’s death.

Clara arrived at Friend’s Hospital on July 8th, 1919, where she became the sole patient of the “Bungalow.”⁴ Her family likely used their considerable fortune from the McAdam knit goods business to pay for her care. In the Bungalow, Clara received unique one-on-one attention from her nurses. On her arrival, Clara started on medication and a special diet, and spent her days going on walks with her attendant and participating in needlework class. She was sometimes recorded as being “unclean in habits,” a designation that pops up throughout her entire time at the Hospital.

From August until early December, Clara was “sick in bed.” While she was sick, Clara wasn’t recorded as having taken part in any activities. The cause of her illness was additionally not recorded. By December 9, 1919, Clara seemed to have recovered, and is no longer recorded as “sick in bed.” Details about Clara’s activities are sparse until late March 1920, when

¹ Clara M McAdam, grave marker, Deansboro Cemetery, Deansboro, Oneida County, New York, digital image s.v. “Clara M. McAdam” (died 19 Nov. 1928), *FindaGrave.com*.

² “Quentin M’Adam Died Last Night,” *Herald-Dispatch*, December 9, 1918. Transcribed by Karen E. Dau, <https://nyscu.org/Archives/Universalist%20Memory%20Garden/Universalist%20Memory%20Garden%20MA-MH/McAdam,%20Quentin%201918.pdf>.

³ Quentin’s death date is taken from Quentin M. McAdam, grave marker, Deansboro Cemetery, Deansboro, Oneida County, New York, digital image s.v. “Quentin M. McAdam” (died 8 Dec. 1918), *FindaGrave.com*. Clara responded to the 1910 census saying that she had given birth to no children by age 59, meaning she likely never had children at all, see “1910 United States Federal Census,” digital image s.v. “Clara M Mcadam” (born 1851, residing in New York), *Ancestry.com*

⁴ All following information, unless otherwise noted, is from Daily Record Book, 1918-1921, MC-1261, Item 116, Friends Hospital Records, Haverford College Quaker & Special Collections, Haverford, Pennsylvania.

Clara resumes her walks with an attendant. After this point, Clara's schedule begins to include horseback riding and art classes. She received occasional visits from family and friends throughout her time at the hospital. Clara continued on medication until September 16, 1920. According to the daily record book, Clara's life varied little throughout the rest of 1920. Clara remained in the Bungalow at Friends Hospital until her death from pneumonia on November 19, 1928.⁵

July 1919

- Arrives at Bungalow, July 8th
- All month fed, medicine, out walking w attendant, on a special diet, some needle work class
- Sometimes unclean in habits

August 1919

- Sick for most of the month

September 1919

- Sept 1-3 occupied outside, doing needlework, on special diet, fed, taking medicine, some unclean in habits
- Sept 3-30 sick in bed, taking medicine, fed, on special diet. Some days unclean in habits.

October 1919

- On special diet, sick in bed, taking medicine, fed. Some days unclean in habits.

November 1919

- On special diet, sick in bed, taking medicine, fed. Some days unclean in habits.

December 1919

- Same as nov, except that after December 9 she is no longer sick in bed. Continuing with occasional "unclean in habits"

January 1920

- Same as December (post-dec 9)

February 1920

- Same as January, except w some possible visits by Quakers????

March 1920

- Same as January, except beginning March 22 goes on daily walks w attendant

April 1920

- Special diet, taking medicine, fed, goes on daily walks with attendant.
- Sometimes unclean in habits, sometimes visited by Friends

May 1920

- Same as April

⁵ See "Pennsylvania, U.S., Death Certificates, 1906-1969," digital image s.v. "Clara M Mc Adam" (died 19 Nov. 1928), *Ancestry.com* and "Roy E. Cobb Dies in Philadelphia Hospital," *The Tribune*, May 20, 1919, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/48468200/>.

- Goes riding twice, no visits from Friends

June 1920

- Same as May but more riding
- Visits from Friends

July 1920

- Same as June but no visits from Friends

August 1920

- Same as July but expands activities to include art classes

September 1920

- Mostly the same as August but Clara is sick in bed from September 2-7.
- After Sept 16 Clara is taken off meds

October 1920

- Continuing previous patterns, but with no meds (except oct 10)

Nov 1920

- Same pattern, occasional meds

Dec 1920

- Same pattern, no meds

Jan 1921

- Same pattern
-