

Dorothy McConnell---Lucasville Legend

Dorothy Frances McConnell was born in Ipswich, Essex County, Massachusetts, on September 18, 1899, the second of three children born to Francis John McConnell and Eva Hemans Thomas McConnell. She had an older brother, Thomas Chalfant McConnell, and a younger brother, Donald William McConnell.

Dorothy's father was a Methodist minister & was serving in Ipswich at the time of their children's births. He would later become President of DePaw University, and in 1912, was elected a Bishop of the Methodist Church.

Dorothy received her early education in Ipswich, Massachusetts, Greencastle, Indiana, and in Denver, Colorado. She attended Columbia University, where she graduated in 1922. She became a Social Worker for the Church of All Nations before becoming editor of *World Outlook*, the mission magazine of the Methodist Church, in 1940.

Dorothy was the author of many books for both adults and children. Her Uncle Sam's Family was written for youth, and she authored many other children's titles under a now lost-to-history pseudonym. She also wrote The Church Shares Its Faith, Women, War, and Fascism, Focus on Latin America, Contemporary Man and the United Nations, and perhaps her most famous work, Along the African Path.

From 1964 to 1968, she headed the 1.5 million-member Women's Division of the Methodist Church. Dorothy served on the national board of the YMCA, and in 1984, became the first woman named to the Methodist Communicators' Hall of Fame.

Dorothy held strong ties to Lucasville, where her mother owned the large Thomas farm north of Lucasville, as well as acreage in Clay Township. She frequently visited her mother, who wintered in Manhattan and summered on the farm in Lucasville.

While in Lucasville, Dorothy was a frequent guest speaker at various Methodist churches in Scioto County, including Emanuel in Lucasville. She was a well-versed John Wesley historian, and after a talk at Emanuel United Methodist Church in Lucasville, where she spoke on Wesley, a local parishioner was heard to ask, "John Wesley. He wasn't in the Bible was he?"

In 1968, Dorothy retired. That same year, her mother passed away, and the family farm in Lucasville became her summer home. She maintained her apartment in Manhattan, where she spent her winters like her parents before her. In 1988, Lucasville became her permanent home.

Dorothy McConnell passed away in the farmhouse on Fairground Road that was built by her great-grandfather in 1849, on October 6, 1989. She was laid to rest in Lucasville Cemetery, along with her parents & ancestors.