

Edith Craig Reynolds



Edith Craig Reynolds was born in Walworth, England on December 9, 1875. She was educated in London and at Edinburgh University and travelled the world at a young age giving orations to eager crowds.

In 1900, she married the Rev. Aeneas Craig of the Established Church of Scotland. They had two children that died at ages of 2 and 12. The Rev. Craig died in 1922. In 1924, Mrs. Edith Craig came to the United States to speak at a meeting of the Northern Baptist Convention. She remained in the United States and became the pastor of the First Baptist Church in Ellenburg Depot, near Plattsburgh. In 1925, she became the pastor of the First Baptist Church in Hoosick, New York. She was not only the first fully ordained woman minister in the State of New York, but also the first woman to preside as Chaplin to the New York State Legislature.

In 1928, Craig was married to Marcus T. Reynolds, a successful businessman. She retired from the active ministry shortly thereafter. They spent their winters in St. Petersburg, Florida where Mrs. Reynolds filled in at many churches in the area. Mr. Reynolds passed away in 1957.

Mrs. Reynolds became a benefactor for many organizations in the local area. Over 25 Hoosick organizations received financial aid from Mrs. Reynolds. The Rescue Squad, the North Hoosick Fire Department, the Little League Field, VFW, and the Health Center were just a few that were supported by Mrs. Reynolds. In 1965 she gave a large sum of money to make the Community Pool a reality. The next year she gave funds toward building the skating rink with the major funds coming from a New York State grant.

Upon Reynolds's death on September 3, 1971, a fund was set up by her estate to provide four-year scholarships to students from Rensselaer County. Rev. Reynolds also set up the Reynolds Foundation which gives funds to local organizations yearly.