

Walter Dudley Cavert

Born 1891 in Charlton, died 1986

- Youngest child of Walter I. Cavert (1854-1936) and Elizabeth Brann (1859-1886)
- Married Harriet Harrer (1889-1973)

Among the many Caverts buried in Charlton's Sweetman Cemetery are Walter Dudley Cavert and his wife Harriet (Harrer) Cavert, and his father Walter I. Cavert.

Walter grew up in Charlton, and following his graduation from Union College he taught for a couple of years at The Charlton School before enrolling in theological seminary in New York City.

Dr. Cavert. published several devotional books for teenagers and Boy Scouts, among them: IN THE DAYS OF THY YOUTH (Abingdon Press, 1971), REMEMBER NOW (Abingdon, 1944), PRAYERS FOR SCOUTS (1964).

The following sketch is from:

The North Country

A History, Embracing Jefferson, St. Lawrence, Oswego, Lewis and Franklin Counties, New York.

By: Harry F. Landon

Historical Publishing Company

Indianapolis, Indiana 1932

Rev. Walter Dudley Cavert, D. D. - Few men in the North Country have attained such prominence as Doctor Cavert, who is pastor of Grace Presbyterian Church in Oswego. He was born at Charlton, Saratoga County, N. Y., Jan. 18, 1891, the son of Walter I. and Elizabeth (Brann) Cavert.

Walter I. Cavert, who lives retired at Ballston Spa, Saratoga County, is a native of Charlton. Until 1922 he successfully engaged in general farming on the old Cavert homestead. He is a prominent Democrat and has always taken a keen and active interest in local affairs. He holds membership in the Presbyterian Church. Elizabeth (Brann) Cavert was also born at Charlton and died in 1896. She was a direct descendant of the McCrea family of New York and related to Jane McCrea. To Mr. and Mrs. Cavort were born four children: 1. William L.,

identified with the Minnesota State Agricultural College. 2. Rev. Samuel McCrea, is senior secretary of the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America, with headquarters in New York City. 3. Inez May, engaged in the research department of the Federal Council of Churches. 4. Walter Dudley, the subject of this sketch.

In 1907 Walter Dudley Cavert was graduated from Charlton Academy, and four years later he received the degree of Bachelor of Arts from Union College. He is a member of Phi Beta Kappa honorary fraternity, and during his senior year in college was captain of the intercollegiate debating team, editor of the *Concordensis*, manager of the college track team, and president of the Philomathean Literary Society. He taught at the Charlton Industrial Farm School, a private boys' reform school from 1911 until 1912, and in 1915 received the degree of B. D. at Union Theological Seminary. He also took graduate work at Columbia University while attending the theological seminary. Reverend Cavert then became director of religious education at the First Congregational Church of Willimantic, Conn., during 1915-16. He was pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, at Stamford, N. Y., during 1916-20; pastor of the North Presbyterian Church, at Elmira, N. Y., during 1921-24; and has been pastor of Grace Presbyterian Church, at Oswego, since 1925.

During the World War Doctor Cavert served as army chaplain (first lieutenant) during 1918, and was stationed at Camp McArthur and Camp Taylor. At present he has a captain's commission as chaplain of the 390th Infantry, Reserve.

Since his pastorate in Oswego, Doctor Cavert has served as chairman of the Oswego County Red Cross, and as president of the Oswego Kiwanis Club. He has served as moderator of Syracuse Presbytery, and for three years has been president of the Oswego Council of Churches. He is a member of the executive committee of the New York State Council of Religious Education. Doctor Cavert has represented Syracuse Presbytery at the Presbyterian General Assembly, and several times at the meetings of the New York Synod.

Doctor Cavert is a frequent contributor to religious magazines, having written for the *Presbyterian Advance*, the *Christian Century*, and the *Christian Century Pulpit*. He is also well known as a lecturer and has lectured extensively before lyceum groups, civic organizations, and luncheon clubs.

It was in June, 1931, that Doctor Cavert received the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity from Union College.

On July 17, 1916, Doctor Cavert was united in marriage with Miss Harriet Harrer,

of Brooklyn, N. Y., the daughter of G. A. and Letitia (Morrison) Harrer. The former died in 1912, and the latter lives in Brooklyn. There are two children in the Cavert family: Elizabeth Harrer, born Nov. 18, 1923; and Harriet Morrison, born May 31, 1926. Mrs. Cavert is a graduate of Briarcliff Manor School and received a degree from Columbia University in 1914. Before her marriage she was identified with the Charity Organization Society of New York City, and taught in the Girls' High School of Brooklyn.

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