



5-22-2002

IWU's Oldest Alumna Dies at 104

Jeffery G. Hanna
Illinois Wesleyan University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/news>

Recommended Citation

Hanna, Jeffery G., "IWU's Oldest Alumna Dies at 104" (2002). *News and Events*. 1857.
<https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/news/1857>

This Article is protected by copyright and/or related rights. It has been brought to you by Digital Commons @ IWU with permission from the rights-holder(s). You are free to use this material in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s) directly, unless additional rights are indicated by a Creative Commons license in the record and/ or on the work itself. This material has been accepted for inclusion by faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@iwu.edu.

©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.

IWU's Oldest Alumna Dies at 104

Rachel Green Gage, a member of Illinois Wesleyan's Class of 1919, died on April 24, 2002, in Dunedin, Fla. She was 104 and had been the oldest living alumna of the University.

Gage was profiled in the Spring 1999 issue of *Illinois Wesleyan University Magazine*. A Bloomington native who grew up on East Street across from the campus, Gage was the daughter of Calvin W. Green, principal of IWU's preparatory school and a professor of mathematics.

She majored in French and was the youngest of five Green sisters to graduate from the University. She and one of her sisters, Grace Green Shields, comprised a championship doubles team in the 1917 Illinois Athletic Association's Women's Tennis Tournament in 1917.

Following her graduation from IWU, Gage taught Latin and French in Industry, Ill., later moving to Normal Community High School and then to Bloomington High School. In 1923, when her sister, Ruth, died, Gage married Ruth's husband, Robert Gage, and assumed the role of mother to Ruth and Robert's son. Robert and Rachel had two more sons together and lived in Minneapolis for 33 years before retiring to Florida in 1959.

She died in Mease Manor, where she had lived for almost 34 years. Her ashes were interred next to her late husband's near Elgin, Ill.

With Gage's death, Jerome Van Meter '22 of Beckley, W.Va., is IWU's oldest living alumnus. He is 101 and will turn 102 in August. Van Meter's career as one of the top basketball coaches in the country will be explored in the Summer 2002 issue of *Illinois Wesleyan University Magazine*.