

602 S. Oak Avenue

Historically the Raymond & Jessica Williams House was built in 1903. The home has a square plan and fieldstone foundation. Exterior walls are clad in narrow-gauge vinyl clapboards that cover the original wood clapboards. It also had a hipped roof, overhanging boxed eaves, and a large hip-roof dormer facing main facade. The main (east-facing) facade is symmetrical, with a full-width, enclosed porch across main facade. Raymond Williams came to Marshfield in 1891, graduated from Marshfield High School in 1893. 1898 admitted to Wisconsin Bar, but first worked as an editor for Marshfield Times from 1899 to 1912, at which time Williams began to practice law with his father while serving as city attorney for Marshfield. Served in this post until around 1933 and continued to practice law until 1949. Raymond and his wife, Jessica Williams lived in this house during that entire time. The home was later owned by Richard Felhofer, a World War II veteran, and who took over his father's construction business.



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R. R. Williams Dies Thursday

Was City Attorney, Newspaper Editor

R. R. Williams, 71, former city attorney and one-time editor, died at 6 o'clock last night at St. Joseph's Hospital. Diabetes, arteriosclerosis, and a cerebral condition caused his death.

The widely-known local resident, whose home was at 602 S. Oak street, had been in poor health for some time and had been hospitalized on several occasions, his last admittance to the hospital occurring April 30.

Funeral Monday

The body will lie in state at the Hansen Funeral Home beginning Saturday evening and funeral services will be held Monday afternoon at 2 o'clock at St. Alban's Episcopal Church, the Rev. Howard Adams LePere officiating. Interment will take place in Hillside cemetery.



*R. R. Williams
1877-1949*

Raymond R. Williams, son of the late Mr. and Mrs. P. A. Williams, was born in Coral City, Wis., Aug. 13, 1877, and came to Marshfield in 1891.

He was graduated from McKinley High School with the class of 1893, after which he began the study of law. In 1898 he was admitted to the Wisconsin bar.

From 1899 to 1912 he was editor of the Marshfield Times, a weekly paper which later was merged with the Marshfield News to form the Marshfield Daily News, a forerunner of the Marshfield News Herald.

Practiced Law

He began the practice of law in 1913 and was associated with his father in that profession for many years.

From 1912 to 1932 he held the office of city attorney, with the exception of three years, during two of which he served as district attorney for Wood County.

He was reappointed to the municipal post July 28, 1944, and served until Aug. 1, 1946, when he resigned in favor of Atty. Fred A. Rhyner, who had secured a leave of absence from the post to enter the Marine Corps.

Attorney Williams became secretary of the Central Wisconsin State Fair Association in 1913 and had been active in that capacity since then. He served two terms as director of the Wisconsin Association of Fairs, in 1925-26 and 1944-45. From 1922 until 1928, when the office was abolished under new state laws, he served as treasurer of School District No. 1 here.

Sports Enthusiast

In his early years he was interested in sports and was a member of the city's first foot ball team. He also played with several early baseball teams.

Mr. Williams was a member of Marshfield Lodge, No. 224. Free and Accepted Masons, Blue Lodge, No. 665, Benevolent and No. 78, Royal Arch Masons. He also was affiliated with Rotary International, the Marshfield Bar Association, and Marshfield Lodge, No. 665, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

The Marshfield Elks Lodge will hold a Lodge of Sorrow at the funeral home Saturday evening at 8 o'clock in his honor.

In 1905 Mr. Williams was married in Marshfield to Jessica L. MacFarlane. She survives, with three daughters, Mrs. Karl J. (Jean) Deckert, San Jose, Calif.; Rae Joan Williams, Marshfield; and Jessamy June Williams, Chicago. There is one grandson, Raymond Deckert, Marshfield. *(from the Marshfield News-Herald, 13 May 1949, pgs. 1 & 12)*

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Nelson Funeral

Funeral services for Harry Nelson, 52, Riplinger, who died Saturday evening, were held at 10 a. m. Friday at the Hansen Funeral Home. Brother Rupert Bradbury officiated and burial was made in a cemetery at New Lisbon.

Pallbearers included Raymond Christensen, John Balogh, Harold Miller, Eric Anderson, Pat

Bradlow, and Floyd Domres.

Mrs. Glenn D. Tinkham presided at the organ during the services.

Pallbearers at New Lisbon included Mandus Peterson, Art Miller, Viggo Hansen, Charles Fobes, James Robertson and Harry Gibson.

Out-of-town relatives at the services included Mrs. Harry Nelson and daughter, Marilyn, and Mrs. Louis Nelson, Riplinger; Mrs. Fred Mead, Mrs. Dick Mead, Miss Hattie Mead and Mr. and Mrs. Art Schroeder and family, Dorchester; Mr. and Mrs. Ludwig Reichersamer and family. Abbots-ford; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Sievert and Mr. and Mrs. Loys Buell. Stratford; Mr. and Mrs. Glenn White, Winona, Minn.; Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Hansen and family. Rushville, Ind.; Mr. and Mrs. Mason Mead, Clinton, Iowa; Mrs. Chris Skoven, Yankton, S. D.; Hans Christensen, Tomah; Raymond Christensen, Adams; Mr. and Mrs. Art Miller and family. Camp Douglas; Mr. and Mrs. Viggo Hansen and family. Mrs. Evelyn Jorgenson and Mr. and Mrs. James Christensen, New Lisbon. Many friends from Riplinger, Dorchester, Unity, New Lisbon, Marshfield, Withee, Owen. Spencer and Auburndale. were also present at the services.

(from the Marshfield News-Herald, 9 February 1952, pgs. 10)

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Gunshot Fatal to Ex-Resident

Rites Slated Here For R. F. Deckert

A young Milwaukee policeman, the father of four children and a native of Marshfield, was found shot to death in the bathroom of his home Friday evening, the Associated Press reported today.

He was Raymond F. Bucky) Deckert, 28.

His wife told authorities that he returned home from target practice at the police school pistol range about 5 p.m. Shortly afterwards, she heard a shot and found her husband's body.

The medical examiner's office said two shots were fired. One struck the officer in the head and the other went wild. Authorities said it was an apparent suicide.

Deckert had been a member of the police force for nearly three years. His children range in age from 2 to 7.

Local relatives were informed of the tragedy last night and his grandmother, Mrs. R. R. Williams and aunt, Rae Joan William, 602 S. Oak Ave., have gone to Milwaukee.

The body will be brought to Marshfield this evening and friends may call at the Hansen Funeral Home beginning Sunday evening. Funeral arrangements have not yet been completed.

Raymond Deckert was the son of Karl J. and Jean Williams Deckert, now of Milwaukee. He attended local schools and graduated from high school here and also served in the Army for 18 months, beginning in 1946, serving some of the period in the Army of Occupation in Japan.

His wife is the former Shirley Morgan, formerly of Park Falls, a graduate of St. Joseph's School of Nursing here.

A music recital scheduled for the Purdy Auditorium Sunday afternoon for students of Mrs. R. R. Williams has been cancelled because of the tragedy in the family.

(from the Marshfield News-Herald, 4 May 1957, pg. 7)

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Richard Felhofer

Richard Felhofer, 602 S. Oak Ave., is making his first venture into politics April 1 as a candidate for the post of alderman of the Fourth Ward.

A native of Marshfield, he was born on April 9, 1921. He received his education in Marshfield schools, graduating from Senior High School in 1938.

After his graduation from school, the candidate was employed for three years by the late J. B. Allen, a local attorney. He worked one year at Roddis Plywood Corp.

A veteran of World War II, Felhofer entered the Army on Aug. 17, 1942. When he was discharged three years later, he held the rank of master sergeant.

Upon returning home from the war, Felhofer entered the construction business with his father. He took over the firm in 1957 and continues to operate it today.

Felhofer and his wife, the former Charolette Nelson, were married on Oct. 23, 1947, and are the parents of three children, Judith, a student at the College of St. Teresa, Winona, Minn.; Donald, a freshman at the University Campus here, and Paul, a junior at Columbus High School.

Felhofer, who attends Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church, is a member of the Elks Club and the Marshfield Country Club.

(from the Marshfield News-Herald, 27 March 1969, pg. 16)

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Fortnightly Music Club One of Oldest, Active Women's Groups

One of the oldest active women's groups in the city, the Fortnightly Musical Club, was founded



*News-Herald Photo
Richard Felhofer*

Feb. 8, 1904, with the organizational meeting being held at the home of Mrs. Edgar S. Bailey, 104 E. Third St.

Active members in the early years included Mrs. Edgar S. Bailey, Mrs. H. F. Below, Mrs. H. A. Bly, Mrs. Robert (Florence G.) Connor, Mrs. Karl W. Doege, Mrs. Edwin E. Finney, Mrs. Clarence B. Edwards, Mrs. Raymond R. Williams, Mrs. Minnie Glassner, Mrs. Robert P. Kraus, Mrs. Guy Miller, Mrs. Victor A. Mason, Mrs. Emma B. Pulling, Mrs. Wilson Rector, Miss A. Emmagene Hayward and Mrs. F. McFarlane.

Mrs. Raymond R. (Jessica) Williams has been a member of the club since it began and still is active when health permits. She also is a past president of the club.

Her encouragement and aid in musical education among the city's youth has been outstanding and has truly furthered the objective of the National Federation of Music Clubs, which is to aid, encourage and stimulate high musical standards.

Mrs. Williams, who will be 92 this month (June), has directed many musical programs and choral groups of Marshfield and nearby communities.

On Nov. 9, 1961, she was elected president of the Seventh District of the State Federation of Music Clubs for a two-year term at a meeting held in Stevens Point. At this meeting Mrs. Frank A. Wesley, then a member of the Marshfield Music Study Club, was elected to the office of secretary - treasurer.

The former Marshfield Music Study Club was received into membership of the Fortnightly Musical Club Sept. 26, 1963. Mrs. Donald M. Clement, now Mrs. Reuben H. Eiche, was president of Fortnightly at the time and Mrs. Frederick W. Beseler was heading the Music Study Club.

The Fortnightly Musical Club gave Mrs. Williams a money tree at a reception held in her honor Oct. 29, 1964, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John B. Wing, 1101 W. Fifth St.; Mrs. Wing inaugurating the idea for this event. Dr. Gerald H. Schroeder, who at that time was in his fifth year of music education in Marshfield, was master of ceremonies and also presented the musical program given by pupils of "The Music Lady of Marshfield."

The club's 60th anniversary was observed Feb. 27, 1964, at the home of Mrs. Frank A. Wesley, 805 S. Columbus Ave., for which Mrs. J. H. Cundy gave a short history of the club's original bylaws and regulations with minutes dating back to its beginning in 1904.

The Fortnightly group hosted the 54th annual convention of the Wisconsin Federation of Music Clubs April 26, 27 and 28, 1970, with state and national officers attending. Dr. Merle Montgomery of New York City, vice president of the National Federation of Music Clubs, was guest



'MUSIC LADY' Honored as the "Music Lady of Marshfield" here in 1964, Mrs. Raymond R. (Jessica) Williams, who will be 92 this month, has been active in the Fortnightly Musical Club since it was founded in 1904.

speaker at the annual banquet of the group, which had been organized in 1893. President at the time of that convention, the theme of which was "We Salute a Dazzling New Decade of Music," was Mrs. Roy G. Hickner.

Past presidents of Fortnightly include Mrs. Robert (Florence G.) Connor, Mrs. Edgar S. Bailey, Mrs. Edwin E. Finney, Mrs. Victor A. Mason, Mrs. Raymond R. Williams, Mrs. John H. Cundy, Mrs. Charles M. Pors, Mrs. Donald J. Clement (now Mrs. Reuben H. Eiche), Mrs. Lloyd L. Felker, Mrs. Douglas P. Oyan, Mrs. Glenn D. Tinkham, Mrs. Frederick W. Beseler, Mrs. Roy G. Hickner and Mrs. Tully B. Lawton.

Mrs. Lawton was re-elected to the presidency at a meeting March 7, 1972, as were Mrs. Reuben H. Eiche, vice president; Mrs. Kenneth W. Reckner, recording secretary; Mrs. Roy G. Hickner, corresponding secretary, and Mrs. Glenn D. Tinkham, treasurer. Named the new program chairman was Mrs. Dean Merrill.

(from the Marshfield News-Herald, 7 June 1972, pg. 41)

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Mrs. Florence H. Nelson

Mrs. Florence H. Nelson, 78, of 602 S. Oak Ave., died at 4:10 p.m. Thursday at Marshfield Convalescent Center where she had been since March 18, 1976.

Services will be at 1 p.m. Sunday at Rembs Kunding Chapel here, the Rev. Myron E. Christensen of Wesley United Methodist Church officiating. Burial will be in New Lisbon Cemetery. New Lisbon.

Friends may call at Rembs, Kunding Chapel beginning at 7 tonight and again Sunday from 10 a.m. until time for services.

Mrs. Nelson, the former Florence H. Mead, was born June 13, 1900 in Galesville, Trempealeau County, and attended Neillsville schools and Eau Claire Normal Teachers College.

She married Harry A. Nelson July 22, 1922 in Danish Lutheran Church, Eau Claire. Prior to her marriage she taught in Clark County and after being married the Nelsons lived in various locales in Wisconsin as her husband was a depot agent for the Soo Line Railroad. After his death Feb. 2, 1952 she moved to Marshfield in 1953, residing with her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Richard F. Felhofer, until entering the convalescent home.

Surviving are two daughters, Mrs. Richard F. (Charlotte) Felhofer, Marshfield, and Mrs. William (Marilyn) Frank, Philadelphia; a son, Robert Nelson, Neenah; nine grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Besides her husband she was predeceased by a sister.

(from the Marshfield News-Herald, 17 March 1979, pg. 3)

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Marshfield's 'Music Lady' dies at 100

Mrs. R.R. (Jessica L.) Williams, 1102 S. Cedar Ave., long - recognized as Marshfield's "Music Lady," died at 8 a.m. today at Marshfield Convalescent Center, where she had resided since March 31, 1976. She was 100 years old.

The former Jessica L. MacFarlane was born June 14, 1880 in Rome, Jefferson County, to Mr. and Mrs. A. L. MacFarlane. She graduated from the Mrs. Stacey Williams School of Music, Evanston, Ill., and moved to Marshfield with her parents in 1904.

On Dec. 2, 1905, she and Raymond R. Williams were married. He died May 12, 1949. Mr. Williams, a one-time city attorney, also was city editor of Marshfield Times from 1899 to 1912, a weekly newspaper which later merged with Marshfield Daily News, a forerunner of Marshfield News-Herald.

Mrs. Williams was a charter member of the Music Study Club, which was received into membership of Fortnightly Musical Club Sept. 26, 1963, and a charter member and past president of Fortnightly, which was founded Feb. 8, 1904. The club gave a reception in her honor Oct. 29, 1964.

She helped organize and became the first president of the Civic Music Association; organized the first junior music club in Marshfield - the Iva Bigelow Weaver Jr. Music Club and organized and directed the Marshfield Choral Club.

Mrs. Williams attended many state and national conventions of the Federation of Music Clubs as a delegate and member of Wisconsin State Board. She was first vice president of the Wisconsin Federation of Music Clubs for two years, of which she was granted a life membership, and on Nov. 9, 1961 was elected for a two-year term as president of the Seventh District, Wisconsin Federation of Music Clubs.

She held honorary life memberships in Marshfield Business and Professional Woman's Club, the Marshfield Woman's Club, Everett Chapter 95 of the Order of Eastern Star, Past Matrons Club of the Order of Eastern Star, in addition to the State Board of Wisconsin Federation of Music Clubs.

She was honored as Marshfield's Lady of Music in a ceremony June 28, 1968, at Columbia Park band shell, the event being co-sponsored by Marshfield Old Settlers Club, Marshfield Senior Citizens Club and North Wood County Historical Society.

Mrs. Williams was honored by Everett Chapter 95 of the Order of Eastern Star on March 14, 1961, and was paid tribute by Marshfield Business and Professional Woman's Club March 18, 1968. She was feted on the occasion of her 100th birthday in June 1980.

In addition to her musical contributions. Mrs. Williams made an unsuccessful bid for the Sixth Ward alder-manic post held by Thomas E. O'Reilly in the 1961 election.

Survivors include two daughters, Mrs. Charles E. (Jessamay June "Binnie") Anderson and Rae

J. "Sid" Williams, both of Marshfield; four great-grandchildren; and one great - great grand-child.

Besides her husband, she was predeceased by a daughter, Mrs. Karl J. (Jean) Deckert on April 13, 1978, one grandson. Raymond Deckert, one sister and one brother.

Rembs/Kundinger Funeral home is handling arrangements.
(from the Marshfield News-Herald, 2 February 1981, pgs. 1 & 2)

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For additional information on this home check:

Property Records of Marshfield, Wood County, Wisconsin:
<http://assessordata.org/reports/6978552911582.pdf>

Wisconsin Historical Society's Architecture and Inventory:
<https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Property/HI137641>