

May Hendricks Swayne
May 1, 1856 - July 13, 1940

On May 1, 1856, May Hendricks Swayne was born in Sherman, Texas to parents Harrison and Eliza Everts Hendericks. Her father was a pioneer Texas attorney & Judge and they moved to a farm on the northside of Fort Worth early in her childhood. In her teenage years, she was sent to an academy in Kentucky to complete her education.

At the age of 18, May married John F. Swayne, Fort Worth's first city secretary. They would have 4 children, but only 2 would live to adulthood. In 1884, The Swaynes would build a stately home at 503 E. First St. which featured a rosewood grand piano. The couple would reside in this home their entire lives. The home is no longer standing.

May served as an officer of the Women's Committee for the Spring Palace in 1889. In the same year, May also founded the Women's Wednesday Club in her living room, focusing on promoting arts and literature in the growing City of Fort Worth.¹ In 1923, The Woman's Club of Fort Worth would be organized in her home and she served as President. The Women's Wednesday Club was one of 11 Charter Clubs that founded The Woman's Club and is the oldest continuously functioning woman's club in Fort Worth.²

In 1904, May was accepted into the Mary Isham Keith Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). The following year, she would be the third Regent for the chapter. She also served as Vice-Regent for the Texas Society of DAR from 1906-1908 and parliamentarian from 1910-1911. ³ May also had a desire to preserve and maintain local cemeteries. She served as the first elected President of the Oakwood Cemetery Association.⁴ She also served as President at Pioneers Rest Cemetery.⁵

On July 1, 1940, May passed away at the age of 84 in her home due to a lengthy illness related to complications from a broken hip.⁶ She is buried in the Hendricks Family plot next to her parents, husband, 2 children and 3 siblings.

¹"*Woman's Wednesday Club Scrapbook.*" Portal to Texas History, N.D. Pg. 95. Retrieved 15 Aug 2023 ; <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph821691/m1/95/zoom/?q=%22pioneers%20Rest%20cemetery%22&resolution=3.428524634636288&lat=4054.033605097839&lon=3281.431303715895>

² "*Woman's Wednesday Club.*" The Woman' Club of Fort Worth, 2023. Retrieved 15 Aug 2023 ; <https://www.thewomansclubfw.com/clubs>

³ "*May Hendricks Swayne.*" Find a Grave, N.D. Retrieved 15 Aug 2023 ; <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/18924406/may-swayne>

⁴"*Woman's Wednesday Club Scrapbook.*" N.D.

⁵ Granite plaque located at front gates of Pioneers Rest Cemetery.

⁶ "*Woman's Wednesday Club Scrapbook.*" N.D.