

# MME. WALKER IS LAID TO REST: THOUSANDS PAY LAST TRIBUTE TO FAMOUS ...

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## Thousands Pay Last Tribute to Famous Beauty Culturist

### DAUGHTER ARRIVES AFTER THE FUNERAL

Irvington-on-Hudson, N. Y., June 6. --One thousand mourners, consisting of friends and relatives, crowded the spacious rooms of the big mansion, Villa Lawaro, last Friday to give their last respect at the funeral service of the late Madam C. J. Walker. At 11 a. m. the relatives, pallbearers and close friends of the departed woman marched down the big marble stairs, through the front hall, into the drawing-room, where in the center of the room, in a beautiful metal casket, lay the body of madam. Among the marchers were Rev. J. W. Brown, pastor of Mother Zion A. M. E. church, Mme. Walker's place of worship, who was master of ceremonies; Revs. William H. Brooks, Richard M. Bolden, William Sampson Brooks of Baltimore, A. Clayton Powell and Dr. F. M. Ellegor. The pallbearers, J. Rosamond Johnson, Fred R. Moore, E. Kinckle Jones, V. W. Tandy, John Talbert of Buffalo and John B. Nail came next, after which came relatives and a few of madam's close friends. A few young ladies from the woman's motor corps were on hand to assist in handling the enormous crowd that filled the place. Rev. William H. Brooks, pastor of St. Mark's A. M. E. church, opened the services by reciting feelingly the 23d Psalm, a favorite of the deceased one, followed with a prayer by Rev. Brown.

#### Pipe Organ Played

And then the beautiful strains of "Communion in G" from the grand pipe organ floated over the rooms. The piece was played by Edna Thomas, madam's private secretary, and it was an especial favorite selection of Mme. Walker, who, it is said, made the wish that this piece be played at the funeral. Harry T. Burleigh, the famous Negro composer, also played a beautiful piece, "The Lord Is My Shepherd," which was a favorite of the deceased one.

which a score or more of telegrams of sympathy and a few resolutions were read by Thomas E. Taylor, secretary of the West 135th street branch of the Y. M. C. A. Some of the telegrams were from H. R. Moten, Mrs. Booker T. Washington and Dr. Moreland. Rev. Bolden, on behalf of the Interdenominational Ministers, read a set of resolutions drawn up by that body, and then Harry T. Burleigh again sang, this time rendering that beautiful old hymn, "One Sweetly Solenn Thought." Dr. A. Clayton Powell, in a few words, read the obituary, ending with the remark, "She has crossed the bar, with malice toward none." Dr. Powell said madam was survived by a daughter, two sisters, a nephew and several nieces.

#### "Since You Went Away"

J. Rosamond Johnson next sang his own composition, "Since You Went Away." The feeling way in which he sang the remarkably well fitting words of his song made all those present feel even more their loss, since madam went away. Rev. W. Sampson Brooks, pastor of Bethel church, Baltimore, Md., and formerly Mme. Walker's pastor in St. Louis, Mo., preached the sermon. His eulogy was based on the 23d Psalm, "The Lord is my shepherd—and though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil." Rev. Brooks told of the dead woman's early life and how through all her struggles she always kept the faith. He spoke of how on the occasion of his last visit to her, together they had read from the 21st chapter of the Book of Revelations, "Behold, I make all things new \* \* \* There shall be no more sorrow, no more pain, neither shall there be death," and how madam, who had been a sufferer from rheumatism for many years, had been cured of her ailment. Looking down on the body, Rev. Brooks ended by saying, "Farewell, farewell, a long farewell." Emmet J. Scott and John R. Shillady spoke briefly on the life of the departed one, after which the Wright quintet sang those beautiful words of Tennyson's, "Crossing the Bar." This ended the services, the body being removed from the house about 2:30 p. m. and taken to Woodlawn cemetery, where it was placed in a vault. Madam Walker's shroud was of white satin and on her breast reposed a bunch of orchids.

#### Notes on the Funeral

At one time thirty-eight autos and six large auto busses were counted either inside the grounds or out on Broadway, while the village chief of police himself was stationed on Broadway, Irvington, to regulate traffic.

A few of the prominent persons noted by the Defender representatives present were: John R. Shillady, secretary N. A. A. C. P.; Emmet J. Scott, assistant to the Secretary of War; Mrs. Lella Walters, widow of the late Bishop Alexander Walters; Dr. J. Arthur Kennedy, Major J. H. Ward and Mrs. Ward, Dr. Williams, Mr. and Mrs. John E. Saunders and Mrs. Laura A. Brown of Pittsburgh, vice president of the Pittsburgh Walker club. The first four mentioned posed especially in a photograph for the Chicago Defender. Rev. S. W. Smith of Yonkers, N. Y., was also present.

During the services a telegram was received saying that Mrs. Lella Robinson was on her way to Irvington and would arrive at 4:30 p. m. Later, however, it was found that this telegram was false. Mrs. Robinson did not arrive in New York until late Saturday night.

The funeral was in charge of Adolph Howell of West 136th street, and was admirably conducted.