



The Admiral James J. Carey Foundation, Inc.

REAR ADMIRAL JAMES J. CAREY FOUNDATION

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Madeline Elizabeth Carey **An Extraordinary Berlin, WI School Teacher**

{1902 – 1959}

Madeline Carey was an exceptional teacher of the youngsters of Berlin, Wisconsin, as well as a woman of exceptional music talent. She was born September 1st, 1902 in the house at 180 E. Huron Street, on the corner of Huron & State Streets, across the street from the Federated church and diagonal from Nathan Strong Park. Her parents, James Joseph Carey and Mary Ryan Carey, were well-established Berlin citizens, James having been Postmaster of the City of Berlin, and later, City Treasurer. She was the youngest of 8 brothers and sisters. Her Mother passed away when Madeline was 4 years old and her Father died when she was 8 ---- she was fortunate to have her brothers and sisters to care for her and help to raise and educate her.

She obtained her initial teaching credentials from the Green Lake County Normal School System in 1921 and then spent the majority of the next 30 years teaching in the Berlin School System, primarily in the earlier grades. She also pursued

continuing education at the Oshkosh Teachers College, later to become the Univ. Of Wisconsin-Oshkosh and received her Intermediate School Teaching Certification there as well. For a short time she also taught in Waupaca where one of her students was Melvin Laird, a future Wisconsin Congressman and later, the U. S. Secretary of Defense. But the vast majority of her teaching career was in her hometown of Berlin. She was an accomplished pianist and used those skills to teach some of the young students in the 6th grade how to dance as she taught them simple box-steps and then played the piano as they paired-off and practiced their new-found skills. This was at the then-named Washington School on the West side of Berlin [later to become today's new Middle School on the Berlin Schools Campus] and I was one of those dance students, so the year would have been 1949. She also told me how during the silent movie era, she would play the piano music that accompanied those films at the local theater in Berlin. She also used her piano skills to accompany the students in various skits and entertainment shows during her teaching years.

Madeline retired from her 30 year Berlin teaching career in 1956 and lived in Berlin until her premature death from cancer in 1959. She is buried in the family plot in Oakwood Cemetery in Berlin, along with her parents and two brothers. She lived almost her entire life in Berlin and dedicated her life to the education of the young students of Berlin, WI. She would have been truly proud to know that her work lives on through this Berlin Middle School Band Camp Scholarship, initially founded and funded in her memory by the Berlin Teachers Association and awarded to the most promising and focused 8th grade music student. Photos and documents from Madeline's high school and County Normal Teachers School may be viewed at the following URL: www.jamesjcarey.us/madelineCareyPhotos.php This scholarship is currently funded by Berlin Middle School Band fundraising and generous donations from the citizens of Berlin and the Admiral James J. Carey Foundation.

[Note: This biography was written by Rear Admiral James J. Carey, U.S. Navy [Ret.], Madeline Carey's nephew, who was fortunate to know her well during her lifetime and to have spent time in conversation with her during his Berlin school years and after. His foundation, the Admiral Carey Foundation, donates a small portion of this scholarship each year in recognition of his Aunt's dedication to the youth of Berlin and to enable her memory to continue to support and promote musical excellence at the Berlin Middle School.]