

NOTED NOVELIST DIES IN LONDON WHILE ON TOUR

Kate Douglas Wiggin, One of Most Famous of American Women, Fails to Survive Operation — "Prima Donna of Literature."

Harrow, England, Aug. 24.—(Associated Press)—Mrs. Kate Douglas Wiggin, the American novelist, died in a nursing home here last evening. She became seriously ill while enroute to England last June and upon her arrival, underwent an operation from the effect of which she did not recover.

Her husband, George C. Riggs, is understood to be on the way here from the United States.

Kate Douglas Wiggin, often called the "prima donna of literature," was one of the most accomplished women engaged in literary and philanthropic work in the United States. It was back in 1876 that Mrs. Wiggin, then Kate Douglas Smith, left her home in Maine and journeyed to California for the purpose of studying kindergarten methods. She taught for a year in Santa Barbara College, and was then called upon to organize the Silver Street Kindergarten in San Francisco, the first free school of the kind west of the Rocky Mountains.

Little was known of kindergarten work at the time, but the ideas of Mrs. Wiggin soon began to attract attention, and it was not long before she was joined by Mrs. Sarah B. Cooper, the noted educator, who assisted Mrs. Wiggin in forming the California Training School, which established more than 60 schools for poor children in the west.

After her marriage in 1880 to Samuel Bradley Wiggin, a lawyer of San Francisco, Mrs. Wiggin gave up teaching and turned her attention to literature.

Her first story, called "Half a Dozen Housekeepers," had appeared in 1878, before she thought of giving up teaching. It was several years later that "The Story of Patsy" and "The Birds' Christmas Carol" were published and met with unexpected success.

In 1888, Mr. and Mrs. Wiggin removed to New York, where she published "A Summer in a Canyon," "Timothy's Quest" and "A Cathedral Courtship," which were translated into several foreign languages and immediately became popular in Europe.

Mrs. Wiggin's second husband was George Christopher Riggs, whom she married in 1895, six years after the death of Samuel Wiggin. She continued to reside in New York, spending her summers in Hollis.

In June, 1923, Mrs. Wiggin was taken seriously ill in England, where she had gone to attend the Dickens' Fellowship as a delegate from New York.