



Annie D. Tallent

Dakota Images

Mrs. Annie D. Tallent was born in Livingston County, New York on 14 April 1827 to Donald G. and Margaret (Ferguson) Fraser. She was graduated from the Lima Female Seminary in Lima, New York and became a school teacher until her marriage to David G. Tallent, a lawyer, on 4 July 1854.

Mrs. Tallent, with her husband and her ten-year-old son, joined the Collins-Russell Expedition into the Black Hills in 1874 where the party built a log stockade on French Creek near Custer. In the spring of 1875 the party was forced to move from the Hills by a cavalry unit because the region had not yet been opened to white settlers. Annie Tallent was the first white woman to enter the Black Hills region and the first to leave.

The family returned to the Hills in 1876 and settled in Deadwood for four years, then moved to Rapid City where they resided for fourteen years. Always interested in education, she served as superintendent of public instruction in Pennington County for four years. She was also a member of the board of education in Rapid City for three years and served for two years as its president. She was a community leader and was an active worker in the Episcopal church.

In June 1897 Mrs. Tallent moved to Sturgis to live with her son, Robert E. Recounting her adventures in the Hills, she wrote *The Black Hills, or Last Hunting Grounds of the Dakotahs*. She died on 13 February 1901 and was buried in Elgin, Illinois. In 1924 a monument was erected in memory of this pioneer woman at the site of the old Gordon Stockade.

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