

West Aurora Schools

Lucia Goodwin

(Teacher at West Aurora High School 1903-1936)



Lucia Goodwin
(Portrait by Cynthia Putnam Volland)



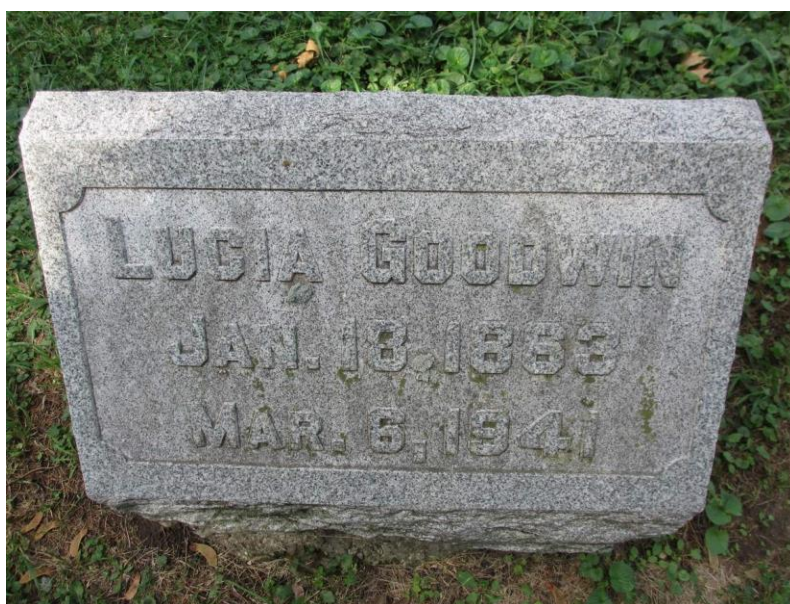
Lucia Goodwin Elementary School
18 Poplar Place, North Aurora
Constructed 1968



Young Lucia Goodwin



EOS 1936 – Dedicated to Lucia Goodwin



Saint Paul Evergreen Cemetery, Bloomington

Profile of Lucia Goodwin

Lucia Goodwin (1863-1941) was born in Aurora. She was the daughter of Charles A. and Grace Kinney Goodwin. Her father was a pharmacist and partner in the drug store firm of Goodwin & Dorchester at 27 South River Street in downtown Aurora.

Miss Goodwin was ranked first in scholarship in the West Aurora High School Class of 1880. She was a graduate of the University of Iowa. She also received a master's degree from Leland Stanford University.

She began her teaching career at South Lake Street School (later known as Abraham Lincoln School). The school closed in 2008. She then taught fifteen years at the girls' finishing school Ferry Hall at Lake Forest.

When she returned to Aurora, she became a math teacher and later head of the math department at West Aurora High School. She remained at West High until her retirement in 1936. At the time of her retirement, she lived at 338 Walnut Street.

Goodwin was known as a strict disciplinarian, but exhibited patience and fairness with her students. She stood just over five feet tall but could "face down the biggest football player who wanted to go out for practice without getting his assignment done. "

According to the Aurora Beacon-News, "Hundreds of college students, especially those who took engineering and scientific courses, have been grateful to Miss Goodwin for the educational foundation she gave them. She was a strict disciplinarian but had infinite patience and was fairness itself. Added to this she was master of her subject and could make others understand. As a result, her pupils got a preparation that often brought inquiries at colleges as to who had been the secondary instructor."

After retirement, she spent considerable time in Fairhope, Alabama where Professor C.M. Bardwell, former superintendent of the East Aurora Schools, and his wife lived.

Goodwin died of a heart attack at her home on March 6, 1941. She lived at 632 Downer Place at that time. Funeral services were held at the Healy Chapel. Burial took place at the Saint Paul Evergreen Cemetery in Bloomingdale, Illinois. Goodwin School was named for her in 1968.

Sources for this profile: West Aurora Schools and the Aurora Beacon-News. The photo of the gravestone is from Find-A-Grave. A June 20, 1968 article in the Aurora Beacon-News reported that the newly constructed school in North Aurora was named for Lucia Goodwin in 1968. This profile, completed in 2016, is courtesy of the A+ Foundation for West Aurora Schools and the Community Foundation of the Fox River Valley.



Lucia Goodwin

In 2016, the A+ Foundation for West Aurora Schools and the Community Foundation of the Fox River Valley collaborated in the development of biographical profiles of those for whom District 129 schools are named. Financial support for the project was provided by the following Special Friends of West Aurora School District 129: Sherry Eagle, Gary and Mary Jewel, Neal and Mary Clark Ormond, Char and Frank Voris, and Brent and Jean Wadsworth. The research, writing and editing of these profiles were courtesy of the Community Foundation and its President Emeritus Sharon Stredde, Research Associate Judith Iverson and Past Chairman of the Board Neal Ormond III.