

## **Biographies of the Contact Commissioners**

### **Lena Celestia Kellogg Sadler and William Samuel Sadler.**

**Lena Kellogg** was born in 1875, in Wet Prairie, Michigan. She was the daughter of Maria Susan Dickinson and Smith Moses Kellogg. Lena was the niece of both W.K. Kellogg, founder of the cereal company, and Dr. John Harvey Kellogg, head of the Kellogg Sanitarium in Battle Creek, Michigan. She was first a schoolteacher, then a “trained” nurse and, after she married William Sadler, studied to become a physician.<sup>1</sup>

Lena became an ardent supporter of women’s right to vote and hold public office, women’s use of contraceptives, the safety and security of women and children caught up in the penal system, and the care of the poor. She was a powerful advocate for women and children in dangerous work and family situations. She was active in many women’s organizations in Illinois and nationally, assuming administrative office in many local and national medical organizations. Lena began her public speaking career in the Chautauqua Circuit with her husband and family, and perfected her dynamic style as she gained experience. She co-authored books and articles with her husband and wrote books under her own name.

Dr. Lena Sadler was the first in her family to believe in the authenticity of the coming Urantia Revelation.

**William Samuel Sadler** was born in Spencer, Indiana, June 24, 1875, to Sarah Isabella Wilson and Samuel Cavins Sadler. The family was secular with regard to religious faith until they became Seventh-day Adventists after the death of one of their twin daughters. He was home schooled by his mother because of fear that he would catch an illness and die, as had one of the twins. William, his mother, and surviving sister left Wabash, Indiana when he was 14, and moved to Battle Creek, Michigan where he worked as a bellboy at the Kellogg Sanitarium. He was a cereal salesman for a short period, and later managed one of the Adventist charities, all before he was 20. He was appointed secretary of the Adventist Chicago Medical Missions and was editor of the *Life Boat Mission* magazine. He became a licensed minister in the Adventist Church in 1899.<sup>2</sup>

Lena and William were married on September 24, 1897. When their first child Willis died at nine months, to assuage their grief they decided to attend medical school at the Cooper Medical College in San Francisco (now part of Stanford University) in 1901.<sup>3</sup> William first had to pass admittance examinations due to lack of prior secondary school education. William engaged in detective work<sup>4</sup> to help finance their medical education. After graduation in 1906 (both graduating with honors), they moved back to the Midwest.<sup>5</sup> In 1908 he and Lena began lecturing on the Chautauqua Circuit while still active in the Adventist Church, revealing up-to-date medical knowledge and promoting physical exercises to their audiences. William and Lena eventually left the Adventist Church after a long simmering debate between themselves, the Kelloggs, and prophetess Ellen White's family.<sup>6</sup>

In 1910 he placed Lena in charge of their medical office in Chicago while he went off to Leeds, England and Vienna, Austria to study surgery.<sup>7</sup> He told associates that he had small hands that enabled him to perform complicated procedures. He also claimed to have performed one of the first surgeries connecting two fractured bones together with a polished piece of animal bone.<sup>8</sup> William and Lena Sadler were both general medical practitioners and surgeons.

William and Lena Sadler became devoted to the idea of educating the public on how to live healthful and satisfying lives. While Lena worked with organizations and agencies dedicated to the welfare of women and children, William counseled newsboys, many of whom were homeless orphans.<sup>9</sup>

For a period of time he worked with magician Howard Thurston and a Chicago police detective exposing fraudulent mediums who were bilking people out of money. (Thurston later entertained Forum members with sleight of hand tricks.)<sup>10</sup> Sadler caught the eye of Federal authorities and was invited to move up to a Federal government bureau. He declined, but briefly thought about running for public office. He was offered the management of a multimillion dollar hotel and sanitarium to be built in Highland Park, Illinois by the Guggenheim family, but he declined that as well, and the project never materialized. He preferred to remain in the private patient care field.<sup>11</sup>

Both doctors had begun writing books in an easy-to-read style to supplement their Chautauqua lectures. Books were also written for patients that sold for \$1.50 to \$3.00, to help them gain knowledge about their health problems. This saved the doctors' time, the patients' money, and their questions were answered in a simple, clear manner. He filled his books and articles with patient anecdotes, explaining, "Later on, people won't remember me, or where they heard it, but they will remember the story." Contemporary colleagues spoke out against his efforts, accusing him of giving away professional secrets. Dr. William also wrote a textbook for medical and psychiatry students, revised periodically, in which he cited the latest theories and findings of specialists in the field of psychiatry. Dr. William Sadler's books spread beyond medical patients. When he switched from surgery to psychiatry in 1930 and began to teach pastoral psychology at the McCormick Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Chicago for 25 years, his books found a new audience among student ministers and church members. They were non-technical, practical aids in understanding neurotic behavior and the more serious mental disorders.<sup>12</sup> Altogether the Sadlers wrote 42 books. Both Doctors Sadler were listed in *Who's Who in America*.<sup>13</sup>

Sadler often decried the trend that so many psychiatrists were atheists. He said, "The one branch of medicine closest to the human soul, and most of its practitioners are Godless!" He had met Sigmund Freud in Vienna when he went to Austria in 1910 to study surgery but was not converted to his theories. Doctor Sadler was not a "couch doctor." He believed that two adults ought to be able to sit across the desk from each other and talk over the patient's emotional and mental problems. He had a leather couch in his office, but it was dusty.

William Sadler was a dynamic personality with knowledge of the latest findings in biological sciences, a man of broad-ranging interests in many fields. Both physicians were sought-after public speakers on the subjects of health, eugenics, psychology, and religion. In later years, though Dr. Sadler was well versed in current medical practices of the day, there was no indication that he was familiar with physics, chemistry, or studies of astronomy and the physical universe—all important components of the Urantia revelation. In the Forum all study of passages in the Papers dealing with the physical sciences was assumed by Alvin Kuliecke and Ernest Pritchard, Chicago area high school science teachers.

Sadler was not known to have read works of science fiction, or, in fact, any fiction. He had a deep appreciation for lofty, inspirational writing, "real rhetoric" as he termed it. Only when he appeared before an audience did he strike his inspirational stride.

Dr. Sadler and his son Bill offered to write an Introduction to *The Urantia Book* in book form before publication. The revelators dismissed the idea with the now famous quote: "How could a candle light the way for a powerful beacon of light?" When Doctor related the episode, he added, "So, I didn't write my book; guess they didn't like my writing style."

Dr. Sadler had an acute disdain for those who foisted fraud upon an unsuspecting public or took advantage of gullible and weak-willed humans. His life-long habit was to inspire others to take personal responsibility for their own mental and emotional improvement. He did not micro-manage the lives of those around him nor did he attempt to interpret the teachings of *The Urantia Book* for others. His own comprehension of some of the more complex teachings was somewhat superficial.

He was not motivated to attempt to achieve fame, money, or control of others. He never informed his medical or theological associates that he was involved with a new revelation of truth; he sought no personal glory. There is no hint of collusion, or indication of a conspiracy among close associates, all of whom had less ability, time, and understanding of the concepts.

There were no computers or copy machines, and only one member of the contact commission could type. Lena died of breast cancer in 1939 at the age of 64. Dr. William Sadler died April 26, 1969, at 94.

With one exception, in their public speaking and writing, they did not mention the other important work in which they were engaged: the developing Urantia Revelation. The beginning of this phenomenon was described in the Appendix of his 1929 book, *The Mind at Mischief*.<sup>14</sup>

### **Anna Bell Kellogg and Wilfred Custer Kellogg.**

Anna Kellogg was the younger sister of Lena Kellogg Sadler, and was born in Waupun, Wisconsin, in 1877. Anna and sister Lena were descended from a native American great-great-grandmother of the Connecticut tribe, of which she was very proud.<sup>15</sup> Anna was a "trained nurse," and moved to LaGrange, Illinois in 1907, to live near Lena and William Sadler's family. Anna and her half-cousin Wilfred C. Kellogg were married in Illinois, in 1912. Wilfred had been

manager of one of the Kellogg foundations in Battle Creek, but found it to be challenging work, and took much time off to rest and recover from the stress of business.<sup>16</sup>

Mr. and Mrs. Kellogg were employed at the Chicago Institute of Research and Diagnosis, the medical offices of William and Lena Sadler, Wilfred as business and building manager and Anna as staff nurse. They lived on the second floor of 533 Diversey Parkway in Chicago until they gave up the apartment to William Sadler, Junior, after he married in 1935.

The Kelloggs married in 1912 and a year later had a daughter, Ruth, who was born profoundly deaf. They obtained the finest teachers for her, and few people in the Forum realized she was impaired. The hearing problem precluded her participation in the revelatory project. Ruth was an excellent student and well-traveled to many countries. She married a soldier and moved to the West Coast with him. Tragically, in 1944 she died of pneumonia complicated by a case of measles while she was eight months pregnant.<sup>17</sup>

The Kelloggs were an inspiration to many young couples thinking of marriage; they demonstrated how to treat one another with dignity, affection, and gentle humor.

Both Kelloggs were appointed to the contact commission in 1924. They served along with the other commissioners as a group until the book was published, and as individual commissioners until their deaths. When the medical office closed and became the headquarters of Urantia Brotherhood, they continued working together as volunteers on an index for *The Urantia Book* at the Diversey office. They began the index in 1951. Both served as General Councilors of Urantia Brotherhood. Wilfred died at the age of 80, on August 31, 1956, and Anna died at age 83, in February 1960.

### **Emma Louise Christensen.**

“Christy,” as she was known to family and friends, was born in Gem Township, in South Dakota, January 29, 1890, one of six girls and one brother, to Nels Christensen and Rosalia Thors Nana Bald. Her mother died after childbirth, and Christy helped their father care for her younger sisters. She attended Carleton College and the University of Minnesota. She began her career with the Bureau of the Comptroller of the Currency in Minneapolis as Chief Clerk. She

left Minnesota in September 1920 after a brief marriage that ended in divorce.<sup>18</sup> She lived in California for one year before arriving in Chicago in November 1921 to begin working for the National Bank Examiners Office of the Federal Reserve. She was placed in charge of 500 bank examiners who traveled the Midwest unearthing fraud in the U.S. banking system.<sup>19</sup>

An automobile accident brought her into contact with Drs. William and Lena Sadler at Columbus Hospital in July 1922. After she recovered, Christy was introduced to the revelatory phenomenon by the Sadlers, who told her that a secretary with excellent skills was needed. Christy eventually moved into 533 Diversey Parkway with the Sadler family.<sup>20</sup> She was not adopted, though she often referred to herself as their foster daughter.<sup>21</sup> In her role as contact commissioner, Christy typed the Urantia Papers as the original papers, additions, corrections, and final drafts came. Some of the papers were typed up to five times.<sup>22</sup> She took early retirement from the bank in 1946 at age 57 because of a chronic lung condition. Retirement permitted her to rest and devote more time to the effort of preparing the Urantia Papers for eventual publication.

Christy was a contact commissioner from 1924 and later served on the General Council of Urantia Brotherhood from 1955, until the end of her life. She was vice-president of the Brotherhood, twice serving as president following the demise of two successive presidents, as well as serving her own term as president. Christy was a trustee and long-time secretary of Urantia Foundation. She died May 2, 1982, at age 96 after a three-month illness.<sup>23</sup>

### **William Samuel Sadler, Jr.**

William “Bill” Sadler, Jr., was the surviving son of Drs. William and Lena Sadler. Another son, Willis, died in infancy before Bill was born, in 1907 in La Grange, Illinois. The family lived in LaGrange until he was five years old. They moved to Highland Park, then to Chicago.<sup>24</sup> He traveled with his family on the Chautauqua circuit in the summertime, assisting his Aunt Anna Kellogg demonstrate physical exercises for audiences.<sup>25</sup> He had life-long difficulties adjusting to normal sleep patterns, and often went off to school or work without adequate sleep.<sup>26</sup> He attended Francis Parker Private School, graduating at age fifteen. Just as the new revelation was announced in 1924, the sixteen year old left home to join the U. S. Marine Corps. His unit was sent to Haiti and Nicaraguan campaigns during his four-year stint.<sup>27</sup>

After Bill left military service, he attended the University of Chicago but left when the comparative religions course he signed up for failed to mention God. From there he went on to Northwestern University. Christy hired him as a clerk in the office of the Chief National Bank Examiner, Seventh Reserve District, Chicago, Illinois.<sup>28</sup> But he did not remain there long and went to the District National Bank of Chicago. After his marriage to Leone M. Gill, February 21, 1935, he worked successively for two subsidiaries of Standard Oil. In 1947 he joined a former associate of Clyde Bedell's in establishing a business in the management consulting field, with Bill as president.<sup>29</sup> They hired psychologists and other staff while Bill took over the sale of services. Sadler and Associates became a highly successful company. His office at 333 N. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, was the first location of Urantia Foundation in 1950.<sup>30</sup>

He was admitted to the contact commission, joining his parents, the Kelloggs and Christy, in witnessing some of the second series of expanded papers as they arrived. He engaged in a thorough study of the papers, asking questions that led to the arrival of the Supreme papers, and parts of many other papers of the revelation. Eventually, he took over leadership of discussion in the Sunday Forum. Bill Sadler became a scholar of the revelation, devoting all of his free time in the late 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s to study.<sup>31</sup>

In early 1955, Bill began a series of his own studies at Sunday Forum meetings which he titled, *The Alpheus Twins' Version of The Foreword and First Five Papers*. By the fourth Sunday, the midwayers put a stop to further chapters because they did not want a simplified version circulating that would compete with the original *Urantia Book* after publication.

Born in La Grange, Illinois, December 15, 1907, William S. Sadler, Jr. died in Chicago, November 22, 1963, shortly before his 56<sup>th</sup> birthday. Bill was the author of *A Study of the Master Universe*, (Published by Second Society Foundation, 1968) and *Appendices to A Study of the Master Universe*, (Publ. by Second Society Foundation); both published posthumously.

#### END NOTES FOR APPENDIX IV, BIOGRAPHIES OF THE CONTACT COMMISSIONERS

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<sup>1</sup> Kellogg, Anna, list of Kellogg ancestors, 1952

<sup>2</sup> Christensen, E.L., undated, one-page biography, "The Life of William S. Sadler."

<sup>3</sup> Stanford acquired Cooper in 1908, as Stanford's Department of Medicine, by Patricia Sadler Mundelius, oral comment to author.

<sup>4</sup> Employed by the Pinkerton Detective Agency, per E.L Christensen, Patricia Mundelius, and WSS's oral comments to author.

<sup>5</sup> Sadler, William S., M.D., to author.

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- 6 Public records.
- 7 While in Vienna he claimed to have met and studied with Sigmund Freud, noted psychoanalyst, oral remarks to author and other Forum members. Letters in files from Anna Freud and Carl Jung. Research by Sioux Oliva did not uncover confirmation of this trip to Europe; passports were not required until 1941.
- 8 WSS, ELC and Patricia Sadler Mundelius, oral remarks to author.
- 9 WSS comments to Forum members.
- 10 WSS, oral, to many Forum members.
- 11 WSS, oral to author.
- 12 WSS, oral remarks to author during employment, 1952-1957.
- 13 WSS showed me a copy of *Who's Who in America*, commenting that he was listed in it for 25 years.
- 14 See Appendix III, *The Mind at Mischief*.
- 15 Kellogg, Anna, oral remarks to author.
- 16 Public records.
- 17 *Urantia Diaries of Harold and Martha Sherman, Volume Four*, p. 32. Square Circles (2018).
- 18 Married and divorced, 1914 to Christ Davidson, per Sioux Oliva, Ph.D., historian, public records.
- 19 ELC., oral remarks to author.
- 20 [Ibid.]
- 21 ELC, oral to Joyce Lapham.
- 22 ELC, oral to Barbara Newsom and Nicholas Scalzo.
- 23 Urantia organizations records.
- 24 Mills, James C., memorial service for WSS, Jr., 11/30/63.
- 25 Kellogg, Anna, oral remarks to author.
- 26 Sadler, Leone, oral remarks to author.
- 27 Mills, James C., memorial service for WSS, Jr., 11/30/63.
- 28 National Personnel Records Center, obtained by Dr. Sioux Oliva.
- 29 Hafer, William Keith, business partner of Bill Sadler's, per Nola Smith and Tonia Baney.
- 30 Smith, Nola, oral remarks to author.
- 31 Christensen, E.L., oral remarks to author.