

C. Austin Miles Composer, Dies

Funeral services were held today at his home in Pitman for C. Austin Miles, 78, author and composer of almost 3,000 hymns, including the well known "In the Garden," who died Sunday (Mar. 10, 1946) in Hahnemann Hospital, Philadelphia, after a long illness. Mr. Miles was the father of Mrs. Charles A. Slifer, of 1170 Stilford Ave.

Born in Lakehurst, Mr. Miles was a pharmacist before taking up music as a profession, although it had been his chief interest since childhood. His first musical assignment, at the age of 12, was the occasion on which he substituted for the organist at a funeral service. He was graduated from the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy in 1889 and practiced pharmacy for 10 years in Camden before giving his full time to music.

In 1898, Mr. Miles sold four hymns to the Hall-Mack Co., later known as the Rodeheaver, Hall-Mack Co. Four years ago, Mr. Miles retired as music editor of that firm, after 43 years' service. The publishers at that time moved to Indiana.

Mr. Miles' most famous hymn, "In the Garden," which was written in 1912, was sold to the Hall-Mack Co. for \$4. The hymn sold 3,000,000 copies and more than 1,000,000 records of it were made. He had registered 1,029 gospel songs with the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers, of which he had been a member for 21 years, but did not list the great number of songs he wrote for Christmas and other special occasions. He had published 28 books of songs suitable for use in schools.

Mr. Miles was a Mason and a director of the Pitman Camp Meeting Association. Besides his daughter in Plainfield he leaves his widow, Mrs. Bertha Miles; and two sons, C. Austin Miles Jr. of Collingswood; and Russell H. Miles, professor of music at the University of Illinois.