



Quotes, Historical Reference: The 100th Anniversary of the Founding of Father's Day

One windy March night in the late '90s, Mr. Smart, a grief-stricken father just returned from burying his wife, sat with bowed head in the front room of his farmhouse in the rolling hills of the Big Bend, near Spokane. Knowing nothing of the finality of death, they looked toward the door, expecting their mother's return momentarily. Finally one lad, frantic, rushed out into the snow to seek her in the woods. The father roused himself, went out into the snow to seek the boy and finding him, brought him back to mother him before the fire. From that moment, he became both mother and father to the six children, as Mrs. Dodd once related the story.

– *Spokesman-Review, June 1942*

Twenty-three years ago when the youth of the country were singing "everybody works but father," (Sonora Smart Dodd) listened with displeasure. Her own father, William J. Smart, had reared his motherless group alone and unafraid. Everywhere about her she saw demonstrations of father love—father sacrifice.

– *Spokane Daily Chronicle, March 12, 1933*

"His kindness and the sacrifices he made inspired me," Sonora Smart Dodd said. "Besides that, at that time the pendulum of disrespect for fathers had swung too far, I thought. People were singing such songs as "Father, Dear Father, Come Home With Me Now" and "Everybody Works But Father" I thought that fathers should be revered as mothers always had been."

– *New York Sun, June 17, 1939*

"He felt fatherhood was a lifelong task," Sonora Smart Dodd Said, "and he never relinquished its duties and responsibilities until his death in 1919. Even after my brothers and I were married, he was mindful of his obligations for he was a golden rule type of father."

– *Unattributed newspaper clipping, June 18, 1955*



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Mrs. Dodd...is gentle, retiring and gracious. She has given liberally of her time and effort to promote Father's Day, but she has never profited materially in any way from the success the event has brought to manufacturers and retailers everywhere. Her home is full of the beautiful pottery, her handiwork, the result of years and years of pottery-making as a hobby. One of Mrs. Dodd's specialties was Indian dolls, which she has given to many noted people, among them Queen Marie of Romania when she visited here.

– *The Jonquil, Epsilon sigma Alpha Salutes Mrs. John Bruce Dodd, Founder of Father's Day by Grace Hitchcock, June 1941.*

“Father lived to see Father's day observed throughout the nation,” Mrs. Dodd said today. “He saw more than 1,000 boy singers and musicians on the Inland Empire participate in a sacred service on Father's Day in 1916. That service was officially opened in Washington, DC by President Woodrow Wilson through arrangements made by ex-Senator C. C. Dill of Spokane.”

– *Unattributed, undated newspaper clipping*

Mrs. Dodd recalled in an interview in 1972 that she attended a church service back in 1909 that was in honor of Mother's Day. “I liked everything you said about motherhood,” Mrs. Dodd said she told the minister. “However, don't you think fathers deserve a place in the sun, too?”

– *The New York Times, March 23, 1978*

Mrs. John Bruce Dodd, founder of Father's Day, has received more than 1,000 letters of condolence from people in all walks of life representing every race and creed, since the recent death of her husband, friends of the family revealed today. An estimated 400 persons stood outside during the funeral services, unable to crowd into the Ball and Dodd chapel, it was reported.

– *Spokane Daily Chronicle, September 9, 1945*

The day (Father's Day) has an official flower, the dandelion – originally selected by members of the Marti W. Callender Bible Class of Wilksburg, PA, because the more it is trampled on the better it grows.

– *The New York Times, June 21, 1931*

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