



## Frances Elizabeth McAdam (1848-1929)

**Character in the Sherborne Pageant:**  
Osburga, episode 3.

### Episode 3:

On a bier adorned with green foliage and draped with a magnificent purple pall, is borne the dying king Ethelbald, who comes to seek reconciliation with his brother Ethelbert. And behold! Riding forth from the wood opposite comes Ethelbert with splendid pomp, followed by Osburga the Queen-mother, a radiant and majestic figure to behold, in jewelled robes of white and velvet mantle of crocus yellow. And beside her on his tiny steed rides Alfred, the youngest brother of the three, a beautiful fair-haired boy of seven summers, clad in white and gold and green, a golden circlet upon his brow.

Alfred was played by Mrs McAdam's grandson Richard Loudon McCreery and they are pictured here together.

Frances McAdam was married to Major James John Loudon McAdam (1841- 1910) - he was the great-grandson of John Loudon McAdam, the 'macadamiser' of roads. She was living at Greenhill House, Sherborne (1901 and 1911); Stowell Hill, Templecombe (1929). Daughter of John Bligh Monck of Coley Park, Reading. Grandmother of Richard Loudon McCreery (1898-1967) and Robert Bruce McCreery (1899-1921).

It is very likely that Mrs McAdam did much more than make an appearance as Osburga. She undertook the huge responsibility for the costumes as Wardrobe Mistress. At the celebratory evening, in October of 1905, when Louis Parker was presented with the photographic album and illuminated address, there was an estimated 600-700 people crammed into Sherborne school gymnasium to enjoy the event. In his thanks Mr Parker reminded those assembled that they must remember how much their general committee did for the Pageant - how much their president and chairman did - and how much Mrs McAdam did. Each of his statements was greeted with loud cheering and because Mrs McAdam was the first person to be thanked by name, at this point, this must surely indicate a high level of involvement on her part. Mr Parker also mentioned the fine lieutenant that Mrs McAdam had found in Mrs Drewe. Mrs Drewe designed the costumes with Henry Hudson.

At the outbreak of WW1 Mrs McAdam stepped up once again, this time into an even more important role as she undertook to be the Commandant of the Greenhill Voluntary Aid Detachment hospital at her home in Sherborne. She commenced these duties in October 1914 until the hospital closed at the end of the war, in December 1918.