



Earle Dickson

October 10, 1892 - September 21, 1961

New Brunswick, New Jersey

Earle Ensign Dickson - American inventor and Johnson & Johnson executive who created the adhesive bandage that became the BAND-AID brand, died in New Brunswick, New Jersey, on September 21, 1961. He was sixty-eight. Born October 10, 1892, in Grandview, Tennessee, he studied at Yale and Lowell Textile School, joined Johnson & Johnson's manufacturing orbit, and solved a household problem when his wife Josephine repeatedly cut her fingers while cooking.

In 1920 he placed gauze squares along a strip of adhesive tape covered with crinoline so a ready-made dressing could be cut and applied with one hand - a solution born from watching Josephine manage kitchen cuts alone. The company commercialized the idea in 1921; early sales were modest until demonstration campaigns and smaller factory-cut sizes made the product a bathroom-cabinet staple. Dickson rose to the board and to a vice presidency, holding patents tied to dressings, and retired in 1957 after decades in New Brunswick's industrial civic life.

He died at Middlesex General Hospital in the city where his invention had been industrialized. The humble bandage outlived the executive who designed it for love and practicality rather than spectacle.

He died in New Brunswick on September 21, 1961. Medicine cabinets still hold the descendant of his kitchen-table prototype.

Dickson's gift was domestic ingenuity - turning a spouse's scrapes into a global first-aid product. Notice Nearby keeps the death date so September 21 remembers the Tennessee-born inventor who put the adhesive bandage in

American homes.

Services

Died in New Brunswick, New Jersey, September 21, 1961. Inventor of the BAND-AID adhesive bandage; Johnson & Johnson vice president; National Inventors Hall of Fame inductee (2017).

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