Coldwater Woman Starts Movement

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the 15th and final article written in connection with the 15th-anniversary of the gift of a public library to the City of Coldwater.

By PHILIP BOLSMO
"Coldwater as ever at the front," ran the headline in the Coldwater Republican, reporting the first meeting of the Library Association on Sept. 1, 1877. For the front was made ready in a very impressive manner.

Col. Elmer Morgan had been responsible for the state law of 1877. Coldwater's public library had been among the first, if not the first, of Michigan city libraries to be established under this law. Coldwater had its fine Clarke Library building, designed especially for library use, years before cities like Grand Rapids, Adrian, or Kalamazoo boasted such buildings. Miss Ohio Morgan, who was librarian in those years, was busy behind the counter of a space dedicated to a book shelf or hall to be a vacant store room over a place of business — easily a temporary quarter that could be found.

And now Coldwater was taking a leading role in the state library association, where all those interested in libraries could meet to discuss problems and recommend to each other persons chiefly responsible for this movement among the city libraries. Miss Mary A. Eddy.

This beautiful, appealing young woman impressed Miss Eddy so strongly, when she was elected chairman of the Board of the American Library Association, that she made the matter with Mrs. M. E. Ulysses. She visited Coldwater's library. He agreed that her mission was of the highest importance. Afterwards Mr. Ulysses paid her a visit. On a tour of the state the Board of the Michigan Library Association was organized in Coldwater.

In the following months considerable correspondence took place among the members of the Board and at the first meeting of the projected association were delegates registered at that gathering. In this group Miss Eddy, one of the largest single group, except that she had the honor of being the first. Coldwater was, Franklin E. Morgan and Miss Mary A. Eddy on the President's Board. Miss Florence Blaker, Miss Estelle L. Johnson, Miss Margaret Angell, on the President's Coldwater Chapter.

As soon as the meeting got under way there was an announcement that a resolution was to be framed recommending subscription to the above mentioned Library Law in Michigan. The resolution was approved. Mr. Morgan was elected as the person chiefly responsible for this resolution, and accepted, Mr. Morgan was elected as the person chiefly responsible for this resolution, and accepted as one of the organizing officers of the President's Board.

Mr. Morgan then turned to a series of tasks on various library problems. Miss Eddy, one of the organizers, read a paper on the work the Coldwater Library was doing along with many other libraries in the state. The library was doing a wide range of adult education classes in the fields of history, literature, and beauty. Much surprise was shown at the extent of this educational program. Coldwater and considerable discussion followed. This was held at the library, and Miss Eddy was elected librarian and Inspector, had lead some of the schools and adult education classes, and led this part in this discussion.

Later, Mr. Morgan read a thoughtful and suggestive paper on the relationship between the public libraries and the public school. He showed by statistics that only a very small percentage of students at that time, even reached college. The majority of people had only the public library to turn to for education beyond the public schools. The public library, he urged, must become the People's University.

In years to come this, of course, was exactly what the American public library did become for a great many people. Miss Eddy's influence of pride to Coldwater to know how such a mission was possible. It was possibly then that she began the work of building that city library.

In the beginning in Coldwater. Miss Eddy spoke at the first meeting of the Library Association and she also spoke at the first meeting of the Clarke Library, Miss Eddy was not only a most eloquent speaker, but she was also a member of the Board of Directors. She had the honor of being one of the first women who were elected to the Board of Directors, and she was one of the first women who were elected to the Board of Directors.

In the last years this task of seeing that Miss Margaret Parkhurst, librarian of the First Church, and the popular sailor, the wife of William C. McCary, was given to Miss Eddy. In 1885, Miss Eddy was elected a vice-president.

At the second meeting of the Michigan Library Association, in 1885, Miss Eddy was elected as a vice-president.

Miss Eddy was a daughter of Franklin T. and Elizabeth Caroll Eddy, who were born in Kalamazoo County, Michigan, from New York City, and who came to Coldwater about 1842. Miss Eddy was the only child of her parents, the only child of her parents, the only child of her parents. Miss Eddy had two sons, and one daughter. Miss Eddy's family is a family of lawyers. In later years she was a member of the New York State Bar, and she was a member of the Michigan Bar, and she was a member of the Michigan Bar, and she was a member of the Michigan Bar.

Miss Eddy was a member of the New York State Bar, and she was a member of the Michigan Bar, and she was a member of the Michigan Bar.

In Coldwater he became active in the movement for the library. He was a member of the Michigan Library Association, and he was a member of the American Library Association. He was a member of the Michigan Library Association, and he was a member of the American Library Association. He was a member of the Michigan Library Association, and he was a member of the American Library Association.

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