

## Zoe Ethel Faddis Meade Savage

The Carnegie Library in Ogden, Utah, had not even been completed when Grace Emerson, the local woman who had been appointed librarian, resigned in December 1902 because she was getting married (not that she had a choice). The Board instituted a national search and eventually selected Miss Zoe Ethel Faddis of Chicago to begin April 1903. She was initially hired for a period of three months, at a salary of \$70 per month plus travel to and from Chicago, with the expectation that she would train a local young woman (or women) to assume the duties of librarian.

She was born in 19 March 1878 in Mankato, Minnesota, and may have “been thoroughly trained in all the modern methods” by Zella Allen Dixson at the University of Chicago between 1897 and 1902. As early as 1899, she is listed in the register of the ALA Annual Conference as an Assistant at the Chicago School of Education Library, so she was at the school during that time. That affiliation is repeated in the register for 1901 and, strangely, again in 1905, although she was definitely in Ogden by then. She appears as an “Unclassified Student” in the University’s Annual Register for 1902/1903, which was the designation for students in continuing education programs.

She came to Ogden with experience in organizing a library and training a local librarian. In December 1901, she was hired to classify the 4,000 volume collection of the new P.M. Musser Library in Muscatine, Iowa into the DDC, in preparation for its opening in February 1902 (Bekker). She also trained the local librarian, Mrs. Emma Mahin, in the use of the DDC.

One of her first acts was to establish a library training program. Applicants were asked to name six standard U.S. histories, fifteen magazines that could be considered standard, twenty-five classic novels, five of the “world’s greatest scientists” whose works should be in the

collection, and “good wholesome books” which could be recommended to “boys about fifteen who want something exciting to read.” Unlike our LIS programs today, students were expected to come to the course with a knowledge of books. Her job would be to teach them the nuts and bolts of organization and administration.

The minutes record that the Board soon requested that Miss Faddis remain six months, and, one month later, they offered her a year’s contract at the salary of \$70 a month. The Board also hired Miss Grace Harris and Miss Minnie Brown, graduates of the training program, as assistants at \$25 per month with five days vacation. It also authorized her to begin a new apprentice class with two more students and to continue with the advanced instruction of her assistants.

During her time in Ogden, she re-cataloged the entire collection, withdrew more than 10 percent and added nearly one-third as many new books. She made thirty-seven visits to the schools, and talked to twenty-six classrooms. Her annual report emphasizes the necessity for more books, the importance of increasing parental involvement, and the value of a standardized catalog and classification system.

Students of library history will not be surprised to hear that she viewed the public library as a force for self- and civic improvement and the librarian’s role as one of moral guardian, with a particular Utah flavor. Because of the inadequate collection and lack of community support, she wrote a letter to the Carnegie Corporation in 1903, soliciting funds for children’s books. She argued that the eradication of polygamy was a responsibility of the public library:

The old system of polygamy, indulged in by the generation that is passing away, and the evil effects of which constitute a blighting heritage upon the younger generation, can only be eradicated by education, by reading. Every book a Utah boy or girl may read, whether history, biography or a novel breathes unconsciously the spirit of monogamy, which is contrary to the faith of his fathers. In behalf of these boys and girls, whom this nation expects to lead monogamous lives, I ask for further aid.

The appeal was rejected, as were all such requests for funds for books.

After she left Ogden, she was hired by the Corsicana (Texas) Public Library. She served for two years until her marriage to attorney Thomas Asher Meade in March 1907 at St. John's Episcopal Church in that city. They had a son, Thomas Asher, Junior, born 25 March 1910 in Kirksville, Missouri. They eventually settled in Seattle, where Meade practiced law.

She next appears in the historical record in 1914 as a student at the University of Washington. Sadly, her marriage ended in early 1915, after only eight years, when she was widowed at 37. On July 27, 1915, she gave birth to a daughter, Martha Rebecca, in Alhambra, California, a few months after Thomas' death. She returned to work in 1916, in Fort Benon, Montana, when she was hired as the librarian of the Carnegie Chouteau County library, the first county library established in Montana. A year later, Teachers College of Columbia shows a Mrs. Zoe Faddis Meade of Dallas, Texas as a student. She appears in the 1920 census in Norwich, Connecticut as head of household, living with her son and daughter and an older sister, Council Faddis, who had been a witness to her wedding and was an osteopath. Zoe was working as a demonstrator for the Home Farm Bureau. In February of 1920, she married Clarence H. Savage. The 1940 census shows that they are living in Whittier, California, with Council, who had been married to a Yerkes and widowed by then. Savage died in 1951, when he was 82 and she was 73.

Martha married a Harry R. Squiers in 1946 in Chicago and 1953 in Avoyelles, Louisiana (Fingers crossed that someone can explain that!). Zoe died in Lake Worth, Florida in 1966 at the age of 88. The death is reported in the December 14, 1966 *Friends Journal*, where it also states that she was "active in Meetings in Los Angeles and Whittier, Calif., and in New Orleans." Martha was living in Boca Raton at the time and had two children. She died 15 January 1988 in Gloucester, Massachusetts.

Up to this point, other than moving around the country more than most, her life story is fairly typical of that of an educated, middle-class woman of the day, who worked for several years in a traditional female career, then put it aside for marriage and a family, and only returned to work when it was necessary to support herself and her children. However, now we come to the real twist. Her son graduated from the Harvard School of Business Administration in 1936 and worked as director of market research for Montgomery, Ward, and Company in Chicago. He later graduated from the University of Illinois Library School with a BS in Library Science, where he worked as a library assistant, and received his M.A. in Library Science from the University of Chicago in August 1940. He was first a reference assistant at the Queensborough Public Library, then became librarian of the College of Commerce Joseph Schaffner Library at Northwestern University in 1941. At the time of his death 20 November, 1947, in Pullman, Washington, he was Librarian of the General Motors Institute in Flint, Michigan. Sadly, he pre-deceased his mother by nearly two decades.

Although he followed in his mother's footsteps, the trajectory of his career is markedly different from hers, and demonstrates how much education for librarianship had changed in just 40 years. It also illustrates the growth of the field of special librarianship in those decades.

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