

Lillian Reynolds Hathhorn



Thank you to the Yellowstone Genealogy Forum for providing us with more information and a photo!

This Remember Her Name post is a little unique – during our preliminary research at BPL, we found Lillian's given name. However, we still wanted to share her life and accomplishments! We first came across her in our historical documents collection in a directory of city offices and officials, where she is listed as a trustee of the (then) Parmly Billings Memorial Library under the name Mrs. F. H. Hathhorn.

Lillian (nee Reynolds) was born in Quincy, Michigan and came to Montana as an adult to be a teacher. She married Fred H. Hathhorn, a prominent attorney in Billings, and was very active in the community as a school board member, library trustee, and president and member of the local Women's Club. She served as a library trustee for over ten years from 1909 to her passing on December 13, 1920. Unknown illnesses appeared to plague both Lillian and her husband Fred, who passed away unexpectedly on February 16, 1913. Lillian and Fred had one daughter, Elizabeth, who married George Vest Triplett Jr. on June 15, 1921.

From the Yellowstone Genealogy Forum:

Lillian was born on May 28, 1873 near Algansee, Michigan. Her birth name varies somewhat on records, and both Lilla M. Reynolds or Lillie M. Reynolds can be found. Her parents were Lorenzo Dennis Reynolds and Ann Elizabeth Koehler (possibly Keeler). Ann passed away in 1875, leaving Lillian, her sister Ella, and brothers Linton and Samuel. In 1897 Lillian moved to Billings, possibly with her brother, Samuel Gilford Reynolds (seen in many historical documents relating to BPL's history as S. G. Reynolds) and his wife Carrie. Carrie's brother, Michael Brown, was a partner with Lillian's husband Fred at a law firm in Billings.

Lillian married Frederick Hosea Hathhorn on June 28, 1899. Their marriage certificate lists Fred being born in Townsend, MT around 1873 to John R. Hathhorn and Nancy E. Lilly. Fred graduated from the University of Michigan. Just a few years after the death of her husband Fred, Lillian passed away from cancer on December 13, 1920. She, Fred, and her brother Samuel are all buried at Mountview Cemetery in Billings.

Their daughter Elizabeth was born August 29, 1901 in Billings. Elizabeth graduated from Dana Hall School in Wellesley, MA in 1920 and married George Vest Triplett, Jr in 1921. Elizabeth and George had three sons, but George passed unexpectedly young in 1935. Elizabeth later remarried and resided in Kentucky. She passed away in 1986 in South Carolina.

Sources:

BPL Archives Vertical Files Collection

Billings Gazette, Dec. 15, 1920. "Mrs. Hathhorn Dies After Long Illness"

Billings Gazette, Jun 19, 1921. "Billings Couple are Married in East"

Billings Weekly Gazette, June 30, 1908. "Delightful Reception"

Billings Weekly Gazette, Feb. 18, 1913. "Death Calls Great Friend of Army of Criminally Accused"

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