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ALICE LOVINA KIBBE

1881-1969

EVERETT F. MORRIS
Western Illinois University, Macomb

Alice Lovina Kibbe was born in Bridgewater, South Dakota, on June 27, 1881. Her early years on the Dakota prairies instilled in her a love of nature and a desire to protect and preserve it. She attended Baptist College in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and then at the age of seventeen taught in a country school.

Dr. Kibbe's father, a newspaper editor, moved his family to the state of Washington, and Miss Kibbe attended the State Normal in Bellingham from which she was graduated in 1905. Her undergraduate education was continued at the University of Washington where she received the A.B. degree in 1910. From 1910-1913, Miss Kibbe was a teacher and principal at Winlock, Washington. She spent her summers at the Marine Biological Station of the University of Washington at Friday Harbor. She received the M.A. degree from the University of Washington in 1914. Miss Kibbe served as a teacher and principal at Mossy Rock, Washington from 1914-1917. During the 1917-1918 school year, she served as Superintendent of Schools in Adna, Washington. She returned to teaching and at the end of World War I was the only woman in the nation in charge of Smith-Hughes Agriculture. Miss Kibbe received a M.S. degree from Cornell University in 1920. She became Professor of Biology and Head of the Dept. of Biology at Carthage College in 1920. Professor Kibbe received the Ph.D. degree from Cornell University in 1926. Her doctoral dissertation was "A Plant Survey of Hancock Co., Ill." Dr. Kibbe remained a Professor and Dept. Head at Carthage College until 1956. From 1956 until 1964 when the Illinois campus of Carthage College was closed, Dr. Kibbe served as Curator of the Mu-

seum and Herbarium at Carthage College.

Dr. Kibbe was a woman of remarkable energy. Some of her efforts during the 44 years she lived in Carthage were directed towards the establishment and maintenance of a museum at the College. Memorabilia of the area's past were placed in the museum. When the college moved to a new campus in Kenosha, Wisconsin, Dr. Kibbe purchased a great portion of the items from the college. In 1964, she offered the museum items and her home in Carthage to the city as a museum. Her offer was accepted and the Alice L. Kibbe Museum was opened in 1964. A tract of about seven acres, two miles from Carthage, was obtained by Dr. Kibbe in 1921. The area was subsequently used by Dr. Kibbe and her students as a wildlife preserve. The preserve was presented to the city of Carthage by Dr. Kibbe with the provision that the Community Garden Club of Carthage supervise the care of the area. It is now known as the Kibbe Wildlife Preserve.

With the purchase of fifty-four acres of land along the Mississippi River at the edge of Warsaw, Professor Kibbe established the Mississippi River Science Station in 1932. The Station was used principally for field trips and weekend camp-outs by Carthage students and faculty since that time. Through subsequent purchases of adjoining properties, the Station grew to approximately 200 acres. At the closing of the campus in Carthage in 1964, Dr. Kibbe deeded the Science Station to Western Illinois University. The Board of Governors of State Colleges and Universities in Illinois designated the Station as the Alice L. Kibbe Life Science Station and since 1964 it has been in operation as a teaching and research facility of Western Illinois University.

The Kibbe Collection along with the remainder of the Carthage Herbarium was moved to the new campus of Carthage College in 1964. A few hundred unmounted specimens were presented to Western Illinois University by Dr. Kibbe and these have been placed in the Herbarium of the A. L. Kibbe Life Science Station.

Dr. Kibbe is best known for her "A Botanical Study and Survey of a Typical Mid-Western County (Hancock County, Illinois)." The book, mimeographed and hardbound, published by the author in 1952, is a classic. It represents her doctoral dissertation completed in 1926 plus additional work carried out in the ensuing years. A second book, published in the fashion of the first, and titled "Afield with Plant Lovers and Collectors (Patterson correspondence with greatest American Botanists 1870-1915)" appeared in 1953. The volume is rich in botanical history of the era.

Based on earlier studies, Dr. Kibbe published "Some Points in the Structure of *Alaria fistulosa*" in 1915 in the Puget Sound Marine Sta. Pub. (1:43-57) and "*Chytridium alarium* on *Alaria fistulosa*" in 1916 in the Puget Sound Marine Sta. Pub. (1:221-226). The former traced the development of the fistulose or chambered character of the midrib of the kelp, *Alaria fistulosa*. The latter named and described a new fungus species, *Chytridium alarium*, and discussed its life history.

In one of her last professional appearances, Dr. Kibbe, at the age of eighty, read a paper on the "Effects of the Mississippi River Scenic Highway Program on Wildlife" before the Conservation Section during the 54th Annual Meetings of the Illinois State Academy of Science at Charleston in 1961.

Dr. Kibbe was very companionable and ever helpful to her students. She took great personal interest in each of them. Through the years she kept in touch with her former students and friends by means of her Christmas messages. They will be greatly missed.

In 1964, Dr. Kibbe left Carthage and Illinois in order to live her remaining years with relatives in Bellingham, Washington. On January 21, 1969, Dr. Alice L. Kibbe passed away. She was buried in Elma, Washington.

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