

We are happy to name Mrs. Anna Lathrop the 74th inductee in Marshfield's 150: Heroes and Leaders, Past and Present register. Mrs. Lathrop was nominated by the North Wood County Historical Society.

A pioneer resident, Mrs. Anna Lathrop earned a reputation as an outstanding social and civic leader in Marshfield, and she has the distinction of being the first woman elected to the Marshfield Common Council.

Joining her husband, Dr. H. A. Lathrop, here in 1880, they made Marshfield their home until their deaths -- except for a short absence while Dr. Lathrop took a post-graduate course in the East. Dr. Lathrop died here April 23, 1911, and Mrs. Lathrop on November 25, 1942.



Mrs. Lathrop was a charter member of the Travel Class, which later became the Marshfield Woman's Club. For years after its founding, the Travel Class moved from place to place for its meetings, often meeting at the homes of fellow members, until finally settling in the Deming Hall. Programs were prepared by the members themselves about faraway places, some illustrated with Magic lantern slides.

In 1912 she joined the Marshfield Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution. Her patriot ancestor, Corporal Stephen Jackson, was a direct descendant of one of the first colonists in America. She served as regent in 1927.

Mrs. Lathrop worked with the City's early library books, and later was a member of the Library Board when W.D. Connor served as its president.

Hosting club meetings, or gatherings for family and friends, the Lathrop home became a center of good times. Whether it was a small group singing around an organ or lavish dinners and dancing parties, Mrs. Lathrop with her characteristic wit and gaiety, was one of the city's best-known hostesses.

During March 1913, Mrs. Lathrop initiated efforts to establish a Humane Society in Marshfield. She circulated a petition in support of the society and secured enough signatures to bring the State Superintendent of the Wisconsin Humane Society here to officially organize a local chapter in January 1914. At that organizational meeting, Mrs. Lathrop was elected president with a 20-member board of directors.

For more than 20 years she was president of the Marshfield Chapter of the Wisconsin Humane Society and active in suppressing cruelties to all animals and in remedying poor

shipping conditions of livestock throughout the state. Even children knew her and came to her to tell of suspected abuses.

In 1921 Mrs. Lathrop led a local effort for the Near East Relief Association, collecting clothing and aid to assist those suffering from famine conditions in war torn areas of Central Europe and the Near East.

As the spring election neared in April 1921, friends of Mrs. Lathrop, unbeknown to her, started promoting her name as a candidate for alderman of the fifth ward. The incumbent won the day, but Mrs. Lathrop received her first nine votes in a city election.

Two years later, headlines in the Marshfield News read, "First Woman Elected to the Common Council." She was Mrs. Anna Lathrop, who by a small margin defeated her two opponents, incumbent alderman J. Tuchscher and M. E. Adler. Balloting results showed the following results: Mrs. Anna Lathrop, 95; J. Tuchscher, 83; and M.E. Adler, 72.

In the April 1925 election Mrs. Anna Lathrop, the incumbent alderman lost her bid for reelection by the scant margin of just four votes, the total being M.E. Adler, 173; and Mrs. Lathrop, 169.

At the organizational meeting of the council, Alderman John Juno took the floor to extend Mrs. Anna Lathrop, Marshfield's first woman alderman, his appreciation and that of his colleague's for the work and accomplishments of Mrs. Lathrop during her term of office commending her for a spirit of fearlessness and strength to stand and insist on what she believed to be right in all questions affecting the welfare of the city.

A year later, Mrs. Lathrop circulated nomination papers to place her name on the municipal election ballot again, this time as an opponent of D.J. Harney, the second fifth ward alderman. When the results came in, Mrs. Anna Lathrop had won her way once again to the City Council. "Coming back" after her close defeat of a year earlier. Somewhat of another distinction in the city's election result history.

In January 1928 Mrs. Lathrop made plans for a Mediterranean Cruise with Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton Roddis. That part of the cruise was planned for 62 days. After which time, Mrs. Lathrop extended her trip to include visits to Paris and London. Because of her planned absence she "dropped out" of her alderman position to permit her travels which included twenty-one foreign countries.

Mrs. Lathrop remained active in the community well into her eighties. When she passed away at age 89, her contemporaries held her in high regard. Having been a resident here for 62 years, some likely remembered her wit and gaiety, others her independence and spunk. But everyone should remember that in 1923 Marshfield elected its first woman common council member, Mrs. Anna Lathrop.