

NOTICIAS del PUERTO de MONTEREY

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**Anne Hadden escaping the June heat by working in the
garden of the Monterey County Free Library Headquarters,
Salinas, California, 1925. (Courtesy of the Monterey County
Free Libraries)**

**INSIDE: Anne Hadden - Monterey County's
First Librarian**

ANNE HADDEN - MONTEREY COUNTY'S FIRST LIBRARIAN

By Denise Sallee

Imagine the year is 1914 and the task set before you is to deliver books to isolated families living in the rugged Big Sur. This is the challenge that faced Anne Hadden, Monterey County's first librarian, soon after establishing the County's main branch in Salinas. One preparation she undertook for the challenge of opening branches in the most distant corners of Monterey County was learning to ride a horse. "What does horseback riding have to do with books?" she wrote. "No horseback riding, no books in branches to be established where only horses or mules could travel the steep mountainous trails through the wilderness." After enlisting the expertise of a local rancher, Hadden, outfitted "in khaki knickers, jacket and brimmed hat," was ready for the trails.(1)

The geographic obstacles facing Anne Hadden's endeavors to establish County branches never dimmed her love for the country and the people struggling there to survive. One can only imagine how it must have appeared to her in those years before Highway 1 opened up the sanctuary to cars and tourists. Anne Hadden's love of nature and deep interest in people came together for her in those trips along the coast. In 1914 she spent a memorable Thanksgiving with the Pfeiffer family. Her notes on that visit describe an idyllic day of exploration in the forest. She was particularly impressed with Esther Pfeiffer, age nine, ". . . a poised, attractive fair-skinned child [who was] acquainted with plants and trees and knew the ways of birds and animals. From her I had my first introduction to this lovely region which has become for me a wonderland of charm."(2) Hadden's contacts with her clientele went beyond her role as their librarian and often led to lifelong friendships. Letters from remote outposts not only carried news of sons and brothers being shipped to France during World War I, or barns burning down, but of berry-picking and Silver Pines and peaches ready to be canned. Often, branch custodial reports would include special requests - tools, clothes, holiday decorations - items Hadden would purchase in Salinas and send with the books to her friends in the farthest outposts of her County.



In 1978 John D. Henderson, librarian for the Los Angeles County Library, correctly speculated that "there are, no doubt, many untold stories of California's first County libraries and librarians that would have a place in the State's history if they could be told."(3) One such story belongs to Anne Hadden. A remarkable woman whose professional devotion enriched the lives of many County residents,

Anne Hadden's career exemplifies the spirit of California's first County librarians. Monterey County's diverse geographic and demographic profile presented her with unique opportunities - both professionally and personally. Her background as immigrant and Progressive Woman reflect many pages from the social history of the United States and help to explain the importance of her contribution to Monterey County.

Anne Hadden was born on 16 August 1874 in Bandon, Ireland, into a family that had been a respected and important part of their County Cork community for three generations. Her great-grandfather, John Hadden, immigrated to Ireland from Scotland and married into a Welsh family, providing Anne with an interesting Celtic heritage. Anne's father, David Henry Hadden, like his father before him, was a physician.(4) In 1891, at the age of seventeen, Anne Hadden immigrated to America with her widowed mother, her brother and her four sisters. Their first home was in the beautiful Piedmont section of Oakland, in a house built by Anne's uncle, San Francisco art dealer William Kingston Vickery. Following her graduation from Oakland High School, she worked there a few years as secretary to the principal, before beginning a new and deeply influential chapter of her life - she enrolled at Stanford University and began working in the library in 1898.(5)

The Hadden sisters' independence, supportive family background, and desire to participate fully in living provided each with a rich and exemplary life. Anne and Elizabeth Hadden found careers in librarianship, each doing pioneer work in her area of specialization. Fannie, after taking her degree in bacteriology, worked in the medical field, while Georgina Evelyn spent thirty-five years as a Methodist missionary in India. Ellen, the only sister who did not attend Stanford University, created beautiful tapestries, exhibiting in the 1915 Panama-Pacific Exhibition. She centered her life in the artistic community of the Monterey Peninsula.(6)

Following her years at Stanford, Anne became an assistant at the University's library before accepting the position of librarian at the nearby Palo Alto Public Library. In 1902, she took a leave of absence and enrolled for a summer term in the first library school class at the University of California at Berkeley. As librarian for the Palo Alto Public Library, Hadden guided the transition to a new Carnegie building in 1904.(7) In 1912, Anne Hadden took another leave of absence while she began "on-hands" training in county library management. In her first position outside the State Library, she assisted Bertha Kumli in establishing the Kern County Library in Bakersfield. This rural county experience would prove invaluable in the very near future.(8)

In 1913, Hadden stopped over in Salinas, the seat for Monterey County, on her return from a California Library Association convention. She knew that the recently established Monterey County Free Library was without a librarian and took the opportunity to apply in person for the position. After talking to the County Clerk and the City Librarian, Hadden proceeded to the office of Harvey Abbott, a member of the Board of Supervisors. She later wrote: ". . . I went timidly but courageously to his office, up a dim flight of stairs to the mezzanine back of his

butcher shop. We had a pleasant visit, but I went away without the slightest hope of getting the position. . ." Her appointment as Monterey County's first librarian arrived soon after the interview - her work to begin on 1 September 1913.(9)

It was Labor Day, 1913, when Anne Hadden, age thirty-nine, arrived by train in Salinas. The town was virtually deserted and the City Hall closed, as were most of the town's businesses. As she remembered that day, she later wrote: "Here I was, all ready to begin the great adventure of the next 16 years as first Monterey County Librarian but so far [had] no place to live or no place to report." Not daunted by this situation, Hadden began exploring her new town, eventually finding a local teacher whom she had known at Stanford University. This led to her locating a room in a boarding house where she discovered other friends from her Stanford days. When her first day drew to a close she felt, "not altogether a stranger in a strange land."(10)

Salinas, which was often nicknamed "Saloonas" in that era, proved a real frontier for Hadden to conquer. She found "an almost tree-less town [with] white houses, glaring streets [and] so many saloons on east side of Main Street that women rarely walked on that side." Her main allies against this more unruly element of the town were the Civic Club and a women's club with "progressive influence" known as the Wanderers Study Club.(11) Anne Hadden's first priority was finding a suitable place in which to establish her headquarters. Speaking before the City Library Board was one of her earliest official acts as the new County Librarian. Following her speech, the City Library granted the use of a small room in the rear of their building. While remodeling was undertaken for the new library, Hadden worked from the garden of the boarding house where she resided, drafting new library forms, ordering equipment, and selecting books. She would later recall "the September days were bright and sunny and the . . . garden was a pleasant place to work. Here to this first County Library office came people who could hardly wait for service."(12)

Those first months of operation were busy with building, ordering books and supplies and accepting applications for new branches. Anne Hadden took time during her hectic schedule to promote her new endeavor. The Monterey Teachers' Institute, which was held in 1913 on the coast in Pacific Grove, was the perfect opportunity to begin advertising her services; she borrowed books, pictures, and various materials to use for the display. Notices of services the County Library would provide for the schools were distributed at the Institute.(13) In those early months Hadden worked long hours seven days a week. On 28 October 1913, the new Library was ready for its grand opening. Later, Hadden remembered some of the more unpleasant parts of those first days with her usual good sense of humor:

The County Library met with so many delays and trivial difficulties at its start, that although annoying it grew to be quite comical. . . Finally after seven weeks we moved into our new quarters. . . Our big transom blew in twice and showered glass over desk and floor, the outside screen door was carried off its

hinges in a storm, and one morning while I was away a small cyclone entered the mailbox and carried the letters away with it. . .(14)

After opening the main Library, Anne Hadden's next step was to begin the long difficult job of establishing effective County branches. She stated that "the first thing to do was to get a knowledge in detail of one's County - its geographical features, its industrial development, its people [and] their interests." (15) Poor roads and remote areas reachable only by horse stage or horseback were transportation realities Hadden faced. In 1913, she made her first visit to Greenfield, a round trip taking twenty-four hours. She enjoyed the visits immensely, finding delight in the people she met and admiring their spirit and dedication to the land. Her visits were often a high point in the community's affairs. She attended grange meetings, visited the children at school, and brought news and support to women living in these isolated outposts. In her six-month report to the Board of Supervisors, Anne Hadden could claim the establishment of five branches, with applications for six more. In addition, four school districts had joined the County Library. (16)

An area of special interest to Hadden was the development of local history departments in each County's main library. As early in her career as 1912, she wrote an article for the California Library Association proposing such an idea. She envisioned these depositories as "a place belonging to the people and dear to them because their treasures are safely housed there." Under professional supervision such departments would collect, classify, and preserve "all material of interest to the history of the County." (17) Later, Hadden would again relate the importance of such collections to the county by requesting, through local newspapers, donations of local historic documents and ephemeral material. As a tribute to her dedication in this area, the collection she began is housed today at the headquarters of the Monterey County Free Public Library and is remarkable in its scope and content.

On 14 October 1929, at the age of fifty-nine, Anne Hadden submitted her letter of resignation to the Monterey County Board of Supervisors in order "to accept a better position" by returning to Palo Alto Public Library. (18) She left behind in Monterey County a remarkable sixteen year record of achievement. One newspaper article from that period spoke for all of her community in recognizing the value of the County Library: "It is through this office that the remotest hamlets of our county are supplied with books of an educative, scientific and recreative nature and opportunities of studying the best authors and highest authorities on all subjects are afforded those whose environment would otherwise debar them from these advantages." (19) By 1930, Anne Hadden had established 126 branches and had built up the collection to over 90,260 books. (20) When she left her position in Monterey County, Hadden left behind a sprawling County brought closer together by her pioneering work. In a warm letter of welcome to one of her successors, she briefly recalls her years of service to the County:

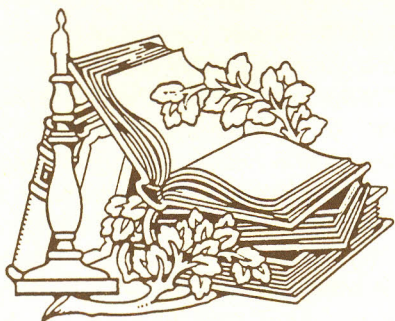
Congratulations and best wishes. . .I hope you will have the happy satisfaction that I had as Monterey County's first librarian. . .Conditions of course are different. The pioneer days are over, when the County Librarian was the first social service worker in the County.(21)

In 1946, Anne Hadden officially retired and returned to Monterey County, living with her sister, Ellen, in a cottage on the dunes in Pacific Grove. Hadden was seventy-two years old by this time, but by no means ready to give up her work. She began to write the history of Modoc County, and later she started writing her memoirs as Monterey County's first librarian. She was assisted and encouraged by a friend and author, Anne B. Fisher. Hadden's notes are quite complete but, unfortunately, as Fisher realized, she was incapable of focusing on the project to see it completed.(21) By this time, Hadden was living alone in an apartment conveniently located behind the Pacific Grove Library.

In 1955, Hadden, finally giving up her independence, moved into a small room in Pacific Grove's Forest Hill Manor. Family ties remained strong and she enjoyed fairly frequent visits and outings with her two nephews and their growing families. Anne Hadden died on 30 August 1963. She is remembered by her colleagues for "strong library leadership" and her pioneering spirit. Fisher, a close friend until the end, wrote to Elizabeth Hadden in a letter that perhaps best sums up the importance of Anne Hadden's remarkable life: "The old order changes giving place to the new which makes our hearts sad, since we know about the brave, courageous hearts who helped the cultural development of America."(23)

by Denise Sallee

excerpted from an article in "Libraries & Culture", fall 1992; Reconceptualizing Women's History: Anne Hadden and the California Library System. With permission from University of Texas Press.



FOOTNOTES

1. Anne Hadden, "The First Library on Horseback," n.d., typed manuscript, family collection of Betty Jean Hadden Spitze, Orinda, Cal. In 1982 Patricia Beatty wrote a novel (for adolescents) based on Hadden's experiences in Monterey County - Eight Mules from Monterey (New York: William Morrow). The librarian in the novel has been transformed into a widow with two children to support.
2. Anne Hadden, "Big Sur-1914," 1955, typed manuscript, family collection of Betty Jean Hadden Spitze, Orinda, Cal.
3. John D. Henderson, "The Rise of the County Public Library - A Personal View," California Librarian 39 (October 1978): 23.
4. Board of Library Examiners, California, "Application for Certificate of Qualification for the Office of County Librarian in the State of California," 30 September 1911, Anne Hadden File, California Archives, Office of the Secretary of State, Sacramento; David Rodney Hadden, interview by author, June 1990, Garden Valley, Cal.
5. Board of Library Examiners, "Application."
6. David Rodney Hadden, interview.
7. Guy C. Miller, The Palo Alto Public Library: Its History and Development (Palo Alto, Cal.: privately printed, 1930).
8. Anne Hadden, Notes, 1950, manuscript, Historical Collection, Monterey County Free Library, Salinas, Cal.
9. Anne Hadden, Notes, 1950, manuscript, Historical Collection Monterey County Free Library, Salinas, Cal.
10. Anne Hadden, Notes, 1950, manuscript, Historical Collection Monterey County Free Library, Salinas, Cal.
11. Anne Hadden, "Beginnings of Monterey County Free Library: Outline Sketch," 1925(?), typed manuscript, Historical Collection, Monterey County Free Library, Salinas, Cal.
12. Anne Hadden, Notes, 1950, family collection of Betty Jean Hadden Spitze, Orinda, Cal.
13. Anne Hadden, "Beginnings of Monterey Country Free Library."
14. Anne Hadden, Notes, n.d., typed manuscript, family collection of Betty Jean Hadden Spitze.
15. Anne Hadden, Notes, 1950(?), manuscript, family collection of Betty Jean Hadden Spitze.
16. Anne Hadden, "First Visits," n.d., typed manuscript, Historical Collection, Monterey County Free Library, Salinas, Cal.; Anne Hadden to the Honorable Board of Supervisors of Monterey County, 2 March 1914, Historical Collection, Monterey County Free Library, Salinas, Cal.
17. Anne Hadden, "The County Historical Departments of the Future," Publications of the California Library Association, Handbook and Proceedings of the Annual Meeting (1912): 49-50.
18. Anne Hadden to the Honorable Board of Supervisors of Monterey County, 14 October 1929, Historical Collection, Monterey County Free Library, Salinas, Cal. Carma R. Leigh to all (California) County Librarians, 19 September 1963, California Section, California State Library, Sacramento, Cal.
19. "County Librarian's Work Praised by Farmers," Salinas-Daily Journal(?). 1920(?), Historical Collection, Monterey County Free Library, Salinas, Cal.
20. News Notes of California Libraries 24 (October 1929): 396-397.
21. Anne Hadden to Miss Lowman, 2 March 1951, Historical Collection, Monterey County Free Library, Salinas, Cal.
22. Anne B. Fisher to Elizabeth Hadden, 2 March 1964, family collection of Betty Jean Hadden Spitze, Orinda, Cal.

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